Local bill requiring owners to scoop pets' poop OK'd. PAGE 2
Dislocated workers will get more than $7.5M in job training. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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Ultimate goal: Repeal touchback rule

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

» Chamber also has 2 other recommendations to alleviate problem

At a time when the Commonwealth needs all the manpower it can muster to recover from the current economic doldrums brought about by super typhoons and the COVID-19 pandemic, Saipan Chamber of Commerce director Alex Sablan said the CNMI's ultimate goal is to have the problematic touchback rule on CNMI-Only Workers repealed by U.S. Congress.

Sablan

"We seem to, as a usual scenario in the Commonwealth, come at the 11th hour to try to put out fires. We are on fire. And so we need to get this legislation in as quickly as possible. Very thankful that Congressman

See GOAL on Page 4

AS A RESULT OF JGO PROBE

Govt paid at least $157,239 in attorneys' fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Babauta

The CNMI government incurred a total of $123,613 in attorneys' fees to four local law firms and $33,626 to a Washington, D.C.-based law firm as a result of the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee investigation into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

According to documents provided by the Department of Finance recently to the House Ways and Means Committee, Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan approved all the contracts in hiring the private lawyers/law firms.

Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona

See GOVT on Page 4

NATIONAL 4H WEEK

LEIGH GASES

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs the proclamation designating Oct. 2-8, 2022, as National 4H Week, and is joined by Rownel Jody Coloma, 4-H Marianas State Youth Council president; Patricia Coleman, interim dean for the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services; and Raina Avelino, 4-H Saipan Youth Council vice president. 4-H is a U.S.-based network of youth organizations whose mission is engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development.

IPI, creditors move for stay on limited receivership

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The parties who have assumed the role of U.S.A Fanter Corp. Ltd., in the receivership currently active against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC have agreed to request a stay on the limited receivership which is currently on track to auction off more of IPI's assets this Friday.

According to a stipulated, or agreed upon, motion filed by IPI and its creditors, the parties are asking the U.S. District

See IPI on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

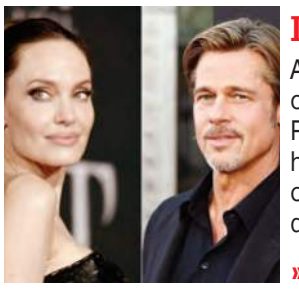
Green Meadow School celebrated Cultural Week with the theme "Cultural Diversity" last Sept. 30.

PAGE 7

WORLD

Russian troops abandoned a key Ukrainian city so rapidly that they left the bodies of their comrades in the streets

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

Angelina Jolie alleges that on a 2016 flight, Brad Pitt grabbed her by the head and shook her then choked one of their children and struck another.

» PAGE X

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Local

Local bill requiring owners to scoop pets' poop OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Committee on Health and Welfare, chaired by Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan), adopted yesterday, with amendments, a local bill which would make dog owners responsible for the disposal of their pets' fecal waste.

At the committee's public meeting held in the House of Representatives chamber, members agreed to recommend for the passage of House Local Bill 22-19, Committee Substitute 1, to SNILD at their next session.

Under the bill, each person who owns or controls a dog must promptly store and remove any feces left behind by that dog on any public property or right of way or on any private property, and sanitarily dispose of it.

Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai (D-Saipan), who is the author of the bill, said on behalf of some concerned citizens who are in support of her legislation, said this bill if becomes a law will mandate dog owners to scoop up after their pets emptied the contents of their stomach.

Sablan

"We all know that one of the reasons that pet dogs want to go for a walk is mostly to empty their stomachs," Yangetmai said.

She said some people may laugh at this bill, but if they step back and observe the many dog owners that walk their dogs just to poop on the walkway, along the beautiful Saipan lagoon, at the parks, on the roads, and other areas, they will see the many disgusting and very unsanitary poops.

Yangetmai said tourists, who are the main drivers of the CNMI's economy, are slowly making a comeback.

"And we would want them to return to their homeland with great stories about their stay on Saipan, and taking pictures of the sunset and ocean on the west side of the island without any issues with stepping on dog poop," she said.

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said one thing is not being addressed in the legislation that she believes they could insert through an amendment is about environmental protections.

"And today, we know that our landfill, we're having issues as well. And I feel that the bill should also perhaps insert what kind of material is to be used to collect the dog poop by the owners," DeLeon Guerrero said.

She said based on her research, obviously there's a lot of bags that could be used, but one report states that it takes about 10 years to 1,000 years for a dog poop bag to decompose.

"And that's a concern," the senator said.

DeLeon Guerrero said, however, the research also shows that there is an alternative such as taking a few sheets of newspaper, which is biodegradable, and disintegrates much faster than any other material.

Yangetmai

She said additionally, she knows that the CNMI is concerned about removing plastics in the community and becoming much more environmentally friendly and responsible throughout the world regarding plastics.

"So I think it's important that we might as well address it in the current legislation if we are to move forward to protect our landfill, our water," DeLeon Guerrero said.

Sablan said she is aware that there are already alternatives like biodegradable and compostable bags for the disposal of the dog solid waste that she has actually seen in stores.

"They are available. They have been available in stores even here on this island. And can also be ordered online," Sablan said.

She noted that there is also pending legislation that would restrict the use of plastic bags generally in stores.

Sablan said as Yangetmai stated in her comments that it might be something that a lot of people in this community don't yet take seriously, but dog solid waste is actually classified as a pollutant.

She said dog solid waste is considered a biohazard even by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency and it is a way that viruses and parasites can be transmitted to people and to other pets.

"And then of course, it impairs water quality. And when you have dogs' solid waste all over the place with everybody's pets just going unattended and pet owners not cleaning up after them, that really does add up to a community-wide problem and a nuisance," Sablan said.

The committee chair then summarized her proposed amendments to the bill. The committee members unanimously approved Sablan's proposed amendments.

Among the amendments is including a subsection that basically states that violations shall be a civil infraction punishable by a fine of not less than $25 and not more than $50 for each violation.

Sablan said this is to put some teeth and also provide some clarity as to who is responsible for the enforcement of the rules and also for the enforcement.

She proposed to insert a new subsection stating that any owner or keeper who requires the use of a Disability Assistance Dog "shall be exempt from the provisions in this section, while such dog is being used for that purpose."

"This is just following the comments that we received from the agencies that it needs to be clear who's responsible for enforcement," she said.

Sablan said the municipalities of Saipan and the Northern Islands are further authorized to administer and enforce rules and regulations adopted.

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Dislocated workers will get more than $7.5M in job training

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Under the U.S. Department of Labor's Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training grant, dislocated workers in the Marianas will receive more than $7.5 million in job training,

» **Kilili says Marianas only US territory in this year's QUEST grant**

according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan in his e-kilili newsletter said according to the U.S. Department of Labor's announcement last week about the QUEST grant award, the CNMI's Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency Division plans to use the funds to support 250 planned participants from historically marginalized groups who will take part in work-based learning and entrepreneurial training.

Sablan refers to marginalized groups as people of color, women, immigrants, and English language learners.

The delegate said in addition, U.S. Labor reports that disaster relief employment activities will create 50 jobs, including logistics and humanitarian support technicians; resource coordinators; and technical support engineers that will support local businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Marianas is the only U.S. territory to receive this year's QUEST grant," said Sablan as he congratulated the CNMI Labor.

CNMI Labor's WIA disclosed last week that the $7,508,990 award will be used to support its proposed project SkillUp CNMI.

SkillUp CNMI promotes enhanced strategic public-private partnerships to convey an effective plan to address the shortfalls of the workforce.

JKPL parking lot closed today

In order to prepare for the 4H Youth Mini Carnival, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's parking lot will be closed today, Oct. 6, 2022. Public parking space will be available behind the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at www.cnmilib.org and like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joeten kiyu public library to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. Contact (670) 235-7323/7322 (READ) or visit your friendly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Hours of operation: open Tuesday to Thursday 10am to 6pm, Friday 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays.

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See JKPL on Next Page

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STOCK # YEAR MODEL KBB SALE PRICE
8P456 2008 TOYOTA SIENNA LE $10,485 $9,995
16P433 2016 ELANTRA SE $15,667 $14,995
17P334A 2017 MAZDA3 SPORT $17,937 $13,995
22H195A 2016 MAZDA6 GT $18,363 $15,995
16P360 2016 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING $21,604 $16,995
15P348 2015 MAZDA CX-9 TOURING $21,604 $16,995
14P342A 2016 TOYOTA COROLLA SE $18,277 $16,995
17P365 2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL $19,752 $17,995
16P487A 2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX $19,269 $17,995
17P422 2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX $18,843 $17,995
STOCK # YEAR MODEL KBB SALE PRICE
17P505 2017 BUICK VERANO $18,265 $17,995
18P393 2018 NISSAN ROGUE SV $22,661 $19,995
19P488A 2016 NISSAN FRONTIER SV $24,900 $23,995
22H175A 2016 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SPORT $35,480 $27,995
15P498 2015 SCION FRS COUPE N/A $28,995
12C015A 2017 NISSAN 370Z TOURING $33,080 $29,995
16P501 2016 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 $43,154 $42,995
21H096D 2021 HYUNDAI PALISADE LIMITED $55,838 $43,995
21P502 2021 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 $52,486 $49,995
2011 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE
SALE PRICE $9,995
• MILES: 53,107 • KBB: $15,475 • STK: 22H183A
2016 SCION IM HATCHBACK
SALE PRICE $19,995
• MILES: 43,939 • KBB: $20,255 • STK: 22H009A
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IPI

From Page 1

Court for the NMI to once again stay the ongoing receivership.

"Defendant IPI, the plaintiffs in *Wang et al. v. Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI), LLC*, the plaintiffs *Genc et al. v. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC, and N15 Architecture* referred to together as the 'judgment creditors,' jointly stipulate and move this Court to enter an order staying the Limited Receivership established by this court," the motion stated.

The motion has been brought to the court as IPI claims to have reached settlements and has made full payment to each judgment creditors.

In addition, IPI intends to move to dissolve the limited receivership altogether.

"IPI recognizes the need to resolve certain issues, including obtaining court approval (where necessary) of its settlement agreements and of satisfaction of judgments, making payment to the limited receiver of its reasonable costs incurred, and obtaining a court order regarding the disposition of any funds collected by the Limited Receiver. IPI, joined by the judgment creditors, thus brings this motion to stay the limited receivership in order to avoid incurring additional unnecessary costs while these matters are addressed," the motion stated

The motion noted that on Oct. 4, IPI and the Wang plaintiffs executed a settlement agreement that fully and finally resolved the over $5 million claim against IPI.

"IPI made full payment of the amount due pursuant to this settlement agreement to the Wang plaintiffs and to a designated escrow agent on Oct. 4, 2022," the stipulated motion states.

Meanwhile, on Oct. 3, IPI and the Genc plaintiffs reached an agreement for a compromise settlement of the Fair Labor Standards Act judgment in the amount of $477,935.91. IPI made the full payment pursuant to this agreement yesterday, Oct. 5.

Lastly, on Oct. 3, IPI and N15 reached an agreement to fully and finally resolve N15's judgment of $149,195.50 against IPI.

"IPI made full payment of the amount due pursuant to this agreement on Oct. 4, 2022. N15 filed an acknowledgement of satisfaction of judgment and motion for withdrawal from Limited Receivership on Oct. 5," the motion states.

IPI argues now that it has fully resolved its outstanding judgments with the Wang plaintiffs, the Genc plaintiffs, and N15 plaintiffs, there are currently no unpaid judgments that need to be satisfied through a Limited Receiver.

"Accordingly, the court should stay the limited receivership prior to the planned Oct. 7, 2022, auction so as to avoid the unnecessary sale, and the related expense associated with such sale, of IPI gaming equipment," IPI stated.

"Currently, the limited receiver has set Oct. 7, 2022, as the closing date for an ongoing auction for certain IPI gaming equipment. While, pursuant to the terms of the limited receivership established by the court, any sale of gaming equipment would need to be confirmed by the court before the sale would be final, IPI argues that the court should stay the limited receivership in advance of the Oct. 7, 2022, auction because doing so would benefit all interested parties in the limited receivership. The judgment creditors have no objection to this" IPI further argued.

According to court documents, the court appointed Clear Management Limited as a receiver, and empowered Clear to sell IPI's casino gaming equipment pursuant to the court's Oct. 26, 2021 memorandum decision, based on an outstanding judgment owed by IPI to plaintiff USA Fanter Corp.

After IPI posted a supersedeas bond to secure the judgment owed to USA Fanter on Jan. 4, 2022, the court issued an order staying execution of USA Fanter's judgment pending IPI's appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

On March 16, pursuant to a stipulation between the Wang plaintiffs and IPI and based on the Wang plaintiffs' judgment against IPI in the amount of $5,430,595.58 and pending fee petition, the court ordered that the Wang plaintiffs should assume all rights as to the limited receivership, and stayed the limited receivership.

On June 14, the Genc plaintiffs moved to participate in the limited receivership, on the basis of their judgment on their FLSA claim against IPI in the amount of $477,935.91 plus post-judgment interest and attorneys' fees and costs.

Finally, last Sept. 13, N15 moved to participate in the Limited Receivership on the basis of its $149,195.50 judgment against IPI.

GOAL

From Page 1

[Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan] is very supportive, he is looking forward to our recommendations, of which we are pursuing three," he said during yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting at Kensington Hotel Saipan.

The touchback rule of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is one of the biggest issues the business sector in the CNMI is facing this fiscal year. The rule affects certain CNMI-Only Workers who are required to exit the Commonwealth for 30 days before their employers can even apply for their renewals.

"We are looking at the touchback [rule] and the ultimate scenario would be to repeal it entirely or to find some modifications that would allow us to submit an application—the individual would go on vacation, they should go on vacation annually—but then we are able to submit the application as they are on vacation. Submit an application and go through the process and steps for U.S. citizens first, if there is no U.S. citizen available for that particular vocation, then we would obviously work toward CW-1," he said.

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Tourism Infrastructure Reboot Committee chair said the second item will deal with the CNMI's diminishing pool of CWs that started with a quota of 1,300.

"This scenario, as we talked about, does not help us. We are going to be well below our pre-COVID-19 numbers once we come out of this whole mess we are in right now in the economy. And that's not going to help new businesses, new hotels like Crowne Plaza, which is going to build 160 more rooms. We are having difficulty just trying to man the current renovated facility and many other hotels, and businesses across the spectrum."

He said the third item the Chamber is looking at is bringing the process of issuing Temporary Labor Certificates closer to home.

"Guam has had a provision since the '60s that allows the Guam Department of Labor and the Guam governor to certify all TLCs within Guam. So they filter it, they determine there was no citizen present for a particular vocation and so they sign off on it. We're asking for the same provision within the Commonwealth."

Each day that passes, more and more CWs are losing their status and Sablan said the Chamber is cognizant of that.

"We have 2,800 out of the 9,000 that were within the CW [visa class] have lost their status in the Commonwealth. That is more than a quarter of our total workforce, so things are going to get rougher in the Commonwealth.

He also said that TLCs are getting significant denials, and/or are not getting approved or delayed; and then the USCIS process is also delayed.

"…they all have the same problem we got, they are dealing with manpower shortages within the federal government, and now they are trying to wrap up the ability to train individuals, they've even go so far as to get directors and leadership trained up in the process as well at the California Service State Facility."

Sablan also shared some good news when he said the Chamber "is looking at a provision within the touchback for the remaining balance of individuals that are on island. So, if you had a renewal within this recent timeline, or in about a year, or a year and a half, they have established that they won't take the time of which you applied which has been the normal course, but they will count the day from which you are approved and have received a permit…so many of the CWs that were on the realm of touchback, seem to have a renewed timeline for the touchback. It doesn't help the 2,800 that have already fallen off the grid here, but they will get this provision and notice soon, so that's coming in the next few days."

Sablan added that the members of the White House, USCIS, as well as delegate Sablan were understanding of the CNMI's dilemma and situation, and that it has been explained that prior to COVID-19, the CNMI was at a 50/50 balance of CW and U.S. workers, and was at the height of our economy, but have lost many CW workers since then.

"Yes, U.S. citizens are filling those positions, and that's great to see, but in order to open up the greater economy, we need our CW workforce in place again, striking a balance…" he said.

Sablan also asked the cooperation of all businesses employing CWs to provide fast and accurate information to USCIS.

"We need everybody in the Commonwealth to provide the information required by law. They have sent the information to us that they are having big difficulties getting the CW information from all of the applicants that are coming in. So more than 60% of applicants failed to provide the information required when you do bring somebody in, there's a reporting required, due within six months of their arrival into the Commonwealth, that is not being adhered to, and that's what is delaying a significant number of the applications within the USCIS TLC process."

Sablan said the Chamber is hopeful that they can somehow find a way to compel employers of all groups to fulfill the requirements.

"... this is the statistic that we need, in order to justify to Congress why there is a requirement for continued CW when we're well below our 50 percentile of our quota in this timeline. We're doing enough narratives, enough storylines but, we all need to come together, we need everybody in this community to fulfill the requirements of the public law…"

GOVT

From Page 1

(Ind-Rota) issued a subpoena to compel Finance to provide numerous reports or documents that the committee members have sought.

Documents show that the law office of Banes, Horey, Berman & Miller was paid a total of $67,891 for representing the Office of the Governor.

The law office of Anthony Aguon was paid a total of $30,550 for representing Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero, Bureau of Motor Vehicle director Juana Leon Guerrero, Boating Safety commander Kevin Aldan, and police major Bernard Santos.

Aguon also paid for representing police officers Jomalyn S. Gelacio, Flora Aguon, and Jhaneeka Atalig, Police Sgt. Adrian Mendiola, and Police Lt. Emery Kaipat.

Attorney Viola Alepuyo was paid $10,234 for representing Mathilda Rosario, who was then the special assistant for Administration to the governor, and $9,940 for representing Frances Dela Cruz, who was then the executive assistant to Torres.

The law office of Matthew T. Gregory was paid $4,737 for representing Bernadita Palacios who is the chief of finance and accounting, and $260 for representing Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

Finance records show that Washington, D.C.-based Garber Group LLC was paid $20,248 for legal services about "status and strategy" rendered to the Office of the Governor on Sept. 6, 11, 15, 16, and 17, 2021, and $13,377 for legal services rendered to the Office of the Governor from Oct. 10 to 27, 2021 relating to the JGO subpoena issues.

Finance documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* in February 2022 shows that Garber Group received a total of $58,626 for representing Torres.

The JGO chaired by Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) pretty much concluded the hearings after the House impeached Torres on Jan. 12, 2022. As of yesterday, the JGO Committee has yet to issue a committee report about the investigation.

No House member appeared as a prosecutor in the impeachment trial before the Senate.

On May 18, 2022, the Senate acquitted Torres of the six Articles of Impeachment brought by the House, finding him not guilty of corruption and neglect of duty.

In April 2022, the Office of the Attorney General charged Torres with 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or Diann T. Torres.

The case also alleges one count of contempt for failure to appear in compliance with the JGO subpoena. The court, however, dismissed this charge without prejudice last Aug. 23. Without prejudice means the prosecution may re-open the charge in the future.

The governor pleaded not guilty and stated that OAG is selectively and vindictively prosecuting him. The case is pending before the Superior Court.

JKPL

From Page 3

rial Library on Rota (670) 532-7329. Hours of operation: open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm and Saturday from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Closed Sundays and holidays.

Visit or contact your friendly Tinian Public Library at (670) 433-0504. Hours of operation: open Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-250000-OLS-21, LS-250249-OLS-21 FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant award, and LS-252496-OLS-22. ***(PR)***

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Child care directors, leadership complete Mind in the Making Training

A total of 11 directors and leaders from Gana Day Care Center, Golden Harvest International School and Day Care Center, Northern Marianas International School, Pure Love, and R & EQ Day/Night Child Care Center completed the Mind in the Making Training Modules, which include the Seven Essential Life Skills last Sept. 28.

The Seven Essential Skills Training Modules, a project of the Bezos Family Foundation, are a set of eight modules that draw on brain development research to inform practices that lead to better outcomes for children through the promotion of essential skills that take place in the prefrontal cortex of the brain. Each module covers one of the essential skills, and an introductory module provides a broad overview. The training provides participants the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences and practices, learn about what researchers have discovered about how children learn best, and discuss how to apply this research in their role as directors and leaders at their child care center.

The Seven Essential Life Skills of Mind in the Making are: Focus and Self-Control, Perspective Taking, Communicating, Making Connections, Critical Thinking, Taking on Challenges, and Self-Directed, Engaged Learning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eleven directors and leaders of child care centers completed the Mind in the Making Training Modules, which include the Seven Essential Life Skills last Sept. 28.

With this completion, the directors and leaders of Cohort 1 are ready to implement what they have learned both as an approach and to support what their centers are already doing as brain builders for children.

Completing the training are Lilibeth Castro (Gana Day Care Center), Do Hyeon Kwon (Gana Day Care Center), Evelyn A. Drilon (Golden Harvest II), Jennifer P. Reyel (Golden Harvest, San Jose), Darlene J. Sobremisana (NMIS), Mary Jane L. Viola (NMIS), Bona V. Angeles (Pure Love I), Elvie D. Pangilinan (Pure Love II), Amaleene P. Ramos (R & EQ Day/Night Child Care Center), Jocelyn Paano (R & EQ Day/Night Child Care Center), and Rex John Penaroyo (R & EQ Day/Night Child Care Center).

These training sessions were facilitated by Melissa Palacios, Science of Early Learning coordinator, and assisted by Rayanna Fitial, Science of Early Learning administrative assistant, who are both from Evergreen Learning. ***(PR)***

Marianas Agupa to discuss proposed constitutional amendment

Marianas Agupa Radio Talk Show is pleased to announce that the Pacific Alliance of Municipal Councils will hold a public outreach forum on the proposed amendment to the CNMI Constitution granting the municipalities authority over their jurisdictions,

Members of the municipal council will each take turns discussing the proposed amendments part 1 and part 2. After the discussion by the members, those interested in asking a question may post their question online or via Marianas Agupa live chat. The host of this special event is councilwoman Juanita M. Mendiola.

The date and time of this public outreach Forum is Oct. 8, 2022 at 10am ChST. The public outreach forum will be broadcast live on Marianas Agupa mass media main platform: Magic 100.3 FM; Other mass media platform: Tune in radio at https://tunein.com/radio/KWAW-FM-1003-s43718/ and Social media platforms: Marianas Agupa YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5heKROsqcS-VHg5ztad DHA and Marianas Agupa Show on Facebook. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: https://cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2022

Opening date: October 06, 2022 **Closing date: October 27, 2022**

Location: SAIPAN	**SALARY**
Positions: (1) ARFF General Maintenance	PL 3/1 to 3/12 ($8.01/hr. to $13.70/hr.)
(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr. to $15.85/hr.)
(1) Custodial I	PL 1/1 to 1/12 ($7.26/hr. to $12.42/hr.)
(1) AOA Controller-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)
Location: ROTA	**SALARY**
(3) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr.)
Location: TINIAN	**SALARY**
Positions: (2) General Maintenance I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 27, 2022**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-001

Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Chinatown and Navy hill)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Chinatown and Navy Hill) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the installation of sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ARPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 17, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-001, Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Chinatown and Navy Hill)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 7, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 21, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Joel Puyat, CUC's Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan CUC's Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician. via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MANNY B. SABLAN
PURCHASING ADMINISTRATOR

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-002

Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Beach Road and Chalan Kanoa)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Beach Road and Chalan Kanoa) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the installation of sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ARPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 18, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-002, Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Beach Road and Chalan Kanoa)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 09, 2022,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 21, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Joel Puyat, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MANNY B. SABLAN
PURCHASING ADMINISTRATOR

CULTURAL WEEK

GMS celebrates cultural diversity

Green Meadow School celebrated Cultural Week at its Chalan Kiya campus with the theme "Cultural Diversity" last Sept. 30.

Parents, relatives, faculty, staff, and students enjoyed the day with singing, dancing, poetry, and arts.

The program was highlighted with the Parade of the Nations wherein the students wore a national costume of their choice. Various competitions were also held with cash prizes along with them.

Below is the list of winners from all categories.

National costume

Kinder 3-1st grade:
- 1st place La Rina Iguel
- 2nd place Naa Kowah
- 3rd place Colin Lilles

2nd grade-5th grade:
- 1st place Jaydnn Palacios
- 2nd place Jade Quindoza
- 3rd place Geri Liam Espiritu

6th-8th grade:
- 1st place Andrea Remilloza
- 2nd place Louise Manansala
- 3rd place Rihanna De Leon

Art contest

Kinder 5-2nd grade:
- 1st place Abrianna Dizon
- 2nd place Faith Dela Cruz
- 3rd place Arianne Buston

3rd-5th grade:
- 1st place Miel Jewel Mabaquiao
- 2nd place Leyland Duenas
- 3rd Grade Nathaniel Coloma

6th-8th grade:
- 1st place Jacie Heart Quindoza
- 2nd place Rosemarie Gamelo
- 3rd place Rihanna De Leon

Poetry writing
- 1st place Isabella Mallari
- 2nd place Andrea Remilloza
- 3rd place Rhett Garth Agbayani

Singing

Solo-K5-2nd grade:
- 1st place Kira George
- 2nd place Maria Margaux Chutin
- 3rd place Yarlis Doram

Solo -3rd -5th grade:
- 1st place Juliana Ortiz
- 2nd place Roanne Palma
- 3rd place Nicole Acaba

Duet-K5-2nd grade:
- 1st place Margaux Chutin & Elliana Salamat
- 2nd place Rhayven & Ariel Gabule
- 3rd place Abriana Dizon & Annhea Narciso

Duet-3rd-8th grade:
- 1st place Roann Palma & Juliana Ortiz
- 2nd place Paula Bernardo & Louise Manansala
- 3rd place Albert Santos & Kaiser Manansala *(PR)*

NHORLEEN LILLES

First grader Colin Lilles with his handmade Philippine jeepney costume, right, was one of the winners of the costume contest at Green Meadow multicultural day celebration.

NHORLEEN LILLES

The second grade class under teacher Bona Angeles of Green Meadow School performs a local dance during their multicultural day celebration.

NHORLEEN LILLES

Students of Green Meadow School paraded in their colorful national costumes during their multicultural day celebration.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BUREAU (NCDB)
RFP22-CHCC/NCDB-028

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCT. 27TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"NCD/CBH AND RISK FACTOR HYBRID SURVEY"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) COMMUNITY OPERATIONS MANAGER

For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office at the Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of a valid CNMI Driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022 AT 4:00 PM

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-RSQ-22-037

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR CUC'S SUSTAINABLE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (SWIMS) PROGRAM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified firms for Program Management Services for CUC's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) program. This is a comprehensive planning, investigation, design, construction and operations approach to manage Non-Revenue Water and the delivery of safe and affordable drinking water to the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All work is subject to grantors approval.

The RSQ package will be provided via email to the registered email ID upon completion of registration at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the RSQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RSQ 22-037, Request for Statement of Qualifications for Program Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) Program"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 11, 2022.** Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the A&E firms due to a lack of information or understanding of the RSQ requirements in the course of the Consultant's preparation of an SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible to being selected for the award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal during discussions; there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This RSQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 20, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org, and Christie Sablan, Administrative Technician Senior via email address, christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 093

Opening Date: September 23, 2022
Closing Date: October 06, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant: Electrician**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Generation.

Duties:
- Assists with the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, incinerators, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.
- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities
- Monitoring Plant systems as assigned
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete
- Monitors equipment
- Takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings
- Prepares and submits data and work reports
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily work activities
- Assisting with equipment inspections, cleaning, corrosion control, and painting
- Operating incinerators
- Oil and water separator pump, servicing and preparing oil filters
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing debris and housekeeping
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program Adult School Diploma (AS) and 4 years of experience related to area of assignment. Training and knowledge in operations repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities desired but not required.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work. Work in environments exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities. Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays, may be on call for emergency response.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Vaping needs stricter regulations

Despite the proven health risks in vaping—inhaling misted nicotine—e-cigarette companies have marketed it as a healthier alternative to cigarettes.

But there's nothing healthy about vaping. It exposes users to cancer-causing chemicals and metals that are toxic to their lungs, as well as seriously addictive levels of nicotine. Users may experience mood swings, coughing, wheezing, nausea, vomiting, headache and dizziness.

Over the past two decades, unregulated marketing has boosted vaping among young people. Juul, owned in part by tobacco giant Altria, has marketed aggressively in supermarkets, convenience stores and on social media. Particularly pernicious is its targeting the advertising of sugary, sweet flavor pods directly to minors.

E-cigarette companies must be held accountable.

In September, Juul, the country's largest e-cigarette company, agreed to a $438 million settlement to 33 states over marketing its products to underage teens. As part of that settlement, Juul has agreed to refrain from a host of marketing practices, including using cartoons, paying social media influencers, depicting people under 35, advertising on billboards and public transportation, and placing ads in any outlets unless 85% of their audiences are adults. The deal also includes restrictions on where Juul products may be placed in stores, and age verification on all sales.

Pennsylvania, which is not a part of that settlement, is pursuing its own lawsuit. Meantime, the marketing restrictions approved by Juul should apply to any vaping company doing business in Pennsylvania.

In Pennsylvania it's illegal to purchase tobacco products, including the cartridges, under the age of 21. It's also illegal in Allegheny County to vape in indoor spaces where smoking is already banned, such as restaurants. State legislators ought to expand such a ban statewide.

The Food and Drug Administration was slow to regulate vaping; research hasn't yet pointed toward a clear solution. Some states, including California, have experimented with banning flavored pods, thought to attract young consumers. Research suggests, however, the ban had no impact on the number of underage kids vaping. Some studies, not funded by tobacco companies, even suggested that teens turned to conventional cigarettes faster when the cartridges weren't available.

Restrictions on how e-cigarette companies market vaping products, however, and forcing them to fund public awareness campaigns on the dangers of vaping, are prudent ways to safeguard public health.

According to a national report released earlier this year by the American Lung Association, 27% of high school students use a tobacco product, such as e-cigarettes or chewable tobacco.

Molly Pisciottano, advocacy director of the American Lung Association of Pennsylvania, called e-cigarettes the state's "biggest challenge," as Pennsylvania earned another failing grade from the association on curbing tobacco use.

Pennsylvania has no more important asset than its young people's health. It must do a better job of protecting it.

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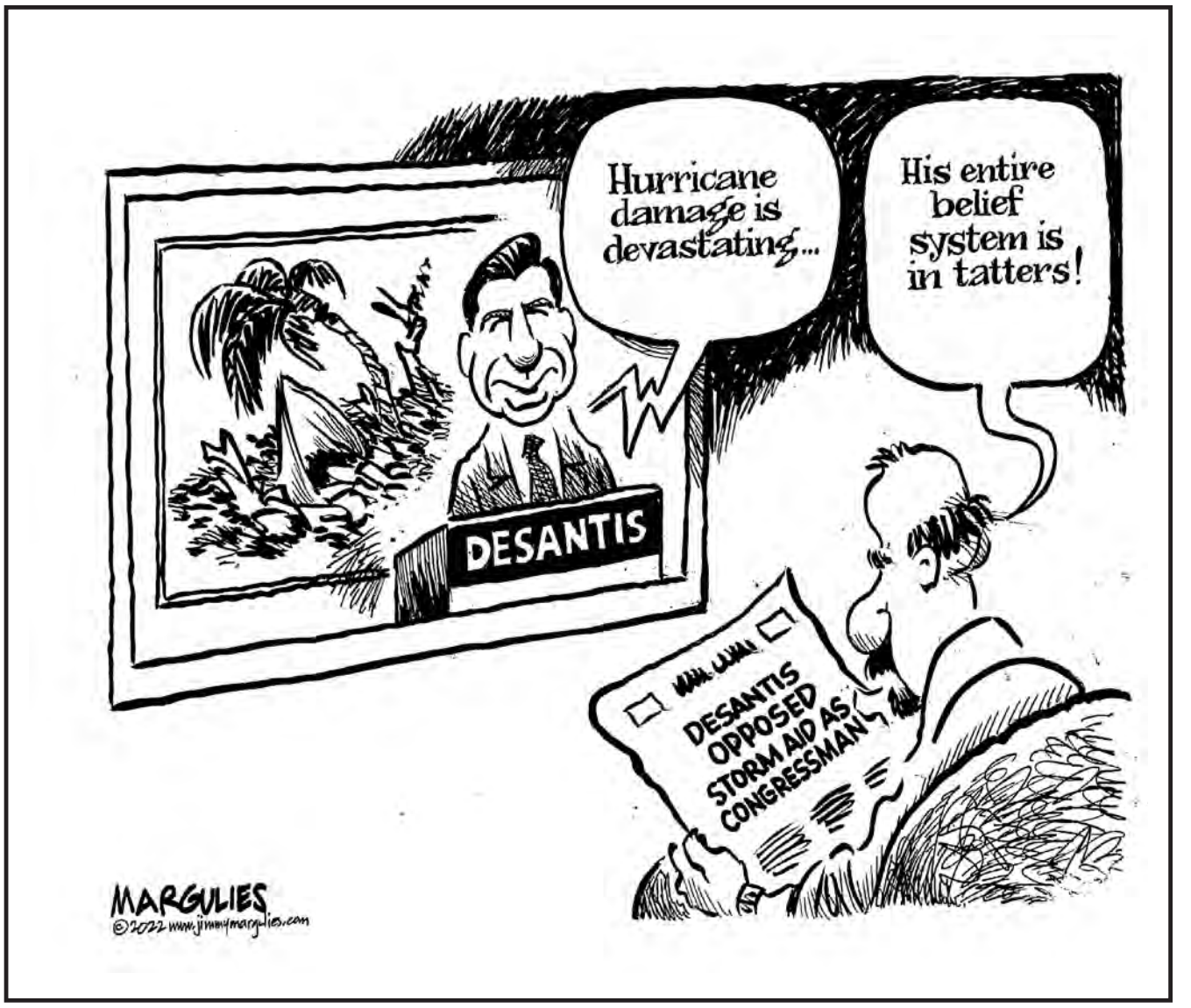


Fentanyl feels like the monster coming for our kids. How do parents talk about it?

By PAUL THORNTON
Los Angeles Times

Paul Thornton is the Los Angeles Times' *letters editor.*

It's been a banner few years for parents having to talk about deadly things with their children. A pandemic. Mass shootings. Climate change. The end of democracy.

And now fentanyl.

Catastrophes like COVID-19 and global warming are problems on a scale so vast that they can be difficult to understand, let alone explain to our children (and believe me, I'm trying).

Fentanyl, on the other hand, feels like the real monster hiding on the playground, one that poses a deadly risk not to humanity, but to your child. And a surge in overdoses is forcing parents to talk about drugs with their children in ways we never imagined, and without the kind of advice this threat demands.

In recent weeks, nine students in the Los Angeles Unified School District have suffered overdoses; one student, 15-year-old Melanie Ramos, died Sept. 13 at Helen Bernstein High School in Hollywood from a suspected fentanyl poisoning.

The word "poisoning" here is key: Melanie reportedly did not know she was ingesting fentanyl, a synthetic opioid many times more powerful and cheaper than heroin. Illicit drugmakers figured they can make more money by cutting their pills and powders with fentanyl, the survival of their users be damned. Melanie apparently thought she was swallowing Percocet.

Right now, if you're thinking no teen should take an opiate in the first place, ask yourself: How old were you when you first experimented with drugs? What risks did you take in high school that didn't kill you? Melanie behaved in a way not unlike what 15-year-olds have been doing for ages. But she died because she did it in 2022, when "Percocet" pills are sometimes fentanyl.

The night after Melanie died, we had our family conversation about drugs and alcohol years earlier than planned. My three children are young—two fifth graders and a first grader—but there seemed no reason to delay. My wife, a teacher, was forthright and calm; I was less calm.

She built on past conversations with our children about being in charge of what we do with our bodies; this time, the focus was what we put into them. When it was my turn to speak, I felt as if I were reliving the bad old days of the 1980s, when Mr. T and Nancy Reagan told us to just say no. I know that message didn't work for me or many of my friends.

Unsatisfied by my flailing and puzzling over how parents can project calm amid such a novel and unforgiving threat, I sought the advice of Maribeth Henry, a licensed family therapist and podcast host who recently retired from teaching parenting classes at Pasadena City College. (She also happens to have been my P.E. teacher in first grade—small world.)

She put the talks we need to have with our children in the context of a longer-term lesson on consent—the idea that you have control with what happens to your body. She said a discussion with my 10-year-olds on fentanyl could build on the idea that other people are not allowed to treat your body in ways you don't want. Henry says an age-appropriate way to refer to these bad actors is as "tricky people." Now, there are "tricky people" selling fentanyl to kids like Melanie, even though Melanie did not consent to having that deadly drug put into her body.

Of course, Henry says it's important to have continuing discussions over many years and build trust with your children as they grow.

Right now, though, the threat posed by fentanyl is immediate, grave and pervasive, and emergency measures need to be taken. "Let's get Narcan in all the high schools," Henry told me. And in fact, Los Angeles school district officials recently announced that all schools will be stocking that overdose reversal drug.

But emergency measures won't be enough if we fail to address the "why" of increased drug use. Henry says people in her profession are sadly unsurprised by this crisis. What's also needed, she says, is to "uptick the therapists and the support in these communities, too."

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

More guns everywhere do not make us safer

By DAN RODRICKS
The Baltimore Sun

Dan Rodricks is a long-time columnist for The Baltimore Sun.

BALTIMORE—During a recent campaign event in Harford County, Maryland, a woman asked Heather Mizeur, the 1st District Democratic candidate for Congress, about keeping guns away from dangerous people.

While she agreed with Mizeur that more could be done legislatively to ensure public safety in legal gun purchases, the woman expressed dismay at the endless flood of illegal guns used in crime in Baltimore.

Indeed, that's a huge problem, and an exasperating one. For years, police have said the majority of illegal firearms in Baltimore come from states with more liberal gun laws.

Last year, partnering with Bloomberg-funded Every Town USA to track the flow of illegal guns into Baltimore, Mayor Brandon Scott reported that more than 60% of firearms seized by police were from outside Maryland while 82% were from outside the city.

So the woman who spoke to Mizeur in Havre de Grace was understandably frustrated, and she spoke for a lot of us: We are surrounded. There are more guns than ever in the United States, an estimated 400 million of them, legal and illegal. Look at the recent history: As gun laws became more liberal, with the full support of Supreme Court decisions that expanded 2nd Amendment rights, the country became more violent. Nearly 49,000 people were killed by guns (murders and suicides primarily) in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and that's considered a record for a single year.

Nearly 80% of U.S. murders involved a firearm, according to the Pew Research Center. States with the highest rates of gun deaths are Mississippi, Wyoming, Missouri and Alabama.

In Baltimore, of course, the violence continues, with 254 homicides so far this year. "When will it stop?" asked a frustrated resident of a Northeast Baltimore neighborhood where three women were shot early Wednesday.

When will it stop?

That question overwhelms me with pessimism, and a new report from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health doesn't make me feel much better. It found a correlation between legally purchased guns, liberal state laws and an increase in violence.

Using special modeling based on crime data, researchers at Bloomberg's Center for Gun Violence Solutions looked at 34 states that liberalized their systems of permitting people to carry concealed firearms over three decades, from 1980 to 2019. In those states, in the first 10 years of liberalization, the average rate of assaults with firearms increased 9.5%. The more people were allowed to carry guns without restrictions, the more gun violence occurred.

No one should be shocked by that finding, but the Hopkins report supports the idea that more liberal gun laws do not make us safer. And it's not just illegal guns causing death and injury.

"In general, violent crime increased after states loosened concealed carry permitting requirements," says Mitchel Doucette, a scientist in the Department of Health Policy and Management and director of research for the gun violence center. "Allowing more individuals to carry concealed guns in public—including some who would have previously been denied carry permits due to prior arrests or restraining orders—can increase inappropriate use of firearms in response to interpersonal conflicts, disputes or other situations."

Some states, Maryland being one, kept restrictions on concealed carry permits. If you wanted a permit to carry a small, easily concealable handgun in Maryland, you had to apply for one from the Maryland State Police, and you had to have a good reason. Certain business owners and people who had been threatened or physically abused sought a concealed carry permit for self-defense. That always made sense. It was prudent.

But then, in June, the Supreme Court tossed aside the concept of "may issue"—versus "shall issue"—in the state granting of permits. The court ruled unconstitutional New York's law requiring that people who wanted to carry a gun demonstrate that they had proper cause or special need. Permits can still be required, but the state's authority is now greatly reduced.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan wasted little time in making the gun-obsessed happy. He issued an order to bring state policy in line with the Supreme Court ruling, and a flood of applications for permits quickly followed.

To obtain a permit, Maryland will still require an effort, including a firearms training class, for one thing, and that might be the only good news in the Hopkins report. It found that states that kept some requirements for concealed carry permits—live-firearms training, screening of applicants for histories of instability or violence—did not experience quite as much violence as states with the most liberal laws.

States that changed their permitting without including some requirements saw an average annual increase of 10.26 gun assaults per 100,000 population, a 21.6% increase. More specifically, in states that did not require live-firearms training, the average rate of gun assaults increased to 8.28 per 100,000 people, an 18.3% increase.

Half of the states still require no permit.

Eleven states allow people with records of misdemeanor violence to obtain one. They are Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Wyoming. Those states experienced a 24% increase in the rate of gun assaults when they liberalized their concealed carry laws, the study found.

I appreciate the work that goes on at Hopkins in the study of gun policy. One thing is certain, requiring no further study: More guns everywhere have not us safer.

Jan. 6? Climate change? War in Europe? The voters have other things on their minds

By NICHOLAS GOLDBERG
Los Angeles Times

Nicholas Goldberg is an associate editor and Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

The Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol is not a top-tier issue for voters. According to my colleague Melanie Mason in The Times, there is little sign that it—or the precarious condition of American democracy it has come to symbolize—will draw many people to the polls in November or determine a swing voter's choices.

Similarly, climate change, the looming catastrophe that scientists say will upend our lives in the years ahead, ranks 24th on a list of 29 issues that voters say they'll think about when deciding whom to vote for in the upcoming midterms, according to the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

So how about the war in Ukraine, which could reshape the map of Europe and even escalate into a nuclear conflict? That's not of enormous concern to American voters either. Nor is the U.S. relationship with China, despite its obvious ramifications for long-term global peace and prosperity.

No, Americans these days—and particularly the swing voters who are being watched and courted so assiduously—are underwhelmed by abstract ideas, faraway crises or problems scheduled to materialize sometime in the future.

With some exceptions, they're focused on the here and now. Pocketbook issues. Quality-of-life issues. Better schools. Safer streets. The cost of living.

"These voters tend to look at their vote through the prism of the pain they want relief from," Mike Murphy, a Republican consultant and co-director of the USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future, said in an interview. "That's the cost of gas and groceries, or getting a job, or traffic or homelessness. The more macro issues—like what the planet will be like in 40 years—are not the ones that make voters passionate."

And that's understandable, isn't it? Most people don't have, or don't feel they have, the leeway in their lives to worry about other Americans' problems, or tomorrow's dangers or crises in distant countries that affect distant people. Paying the bills, staying safe, making sure the kids are OK—these are the humdrum, day-to-day challenges most people want to see addressed.

That's why pollster Mark Penn has said that candidates shouldn't be droning on about Trump and the threat to democracy he poses, but should be "connecting to voters' immediate needs and anxieties."

As the campaign for control of the U.S. House and Senate enters its final weeks, top issues for voters, according to the Pew Research Center, include the economy, gun policy, violent crime and healthcare.

Parochial thinking is inevitable. But it may not be sufficient, especially at a troubled moment in history, when fundamental challenges call for broader thinking than simply, "What'll this cost me?"

Resurgent Trumpism is a moral, practical and existential threat facing Americans. The only other problem as pressing is climate change, which the world has been recklessly ignoring for decades.

Voters should be leaping from their seats and rushing to the polls to vote in November on these enormously consequential subjects.

But they don't appear to be.

"Look, I'd love it if voters were well-informed and voted the national interest, but the history of democracy is they pretty much vote their own interest or their perceived interest," said Murphy.

And those are the Americans who vote! Many don't even bother. Despite record turnout in 2020, in what was probably the most important presidential election of my lifetime, 80 million eligible voters didn't trouble themselves to turn out, thanks to apathy, cynicism and alienation from the political system.

Of course there are a few factors that could shake up the conventional wisdom this year. One wild card is abortion. Many observers believe the Supreme Court's June decision reversing Roe vs. Wade after nearly 50 years will animate young voters and female voters who don't usually make it to the polls. We'll see.

Another is gun violence, for obvious reasons. It ranks high among the issues voters say they care about.

And some still believe the threat to U.S. electoral integrity could have an effect; it shows up as significant in some polling. But I'm skeptical.

Many political analysts expect a relatively high turnout for a midterm election year.

I'm a Democrat and a pragmatist. As far as I'm concerned, Democratic politicians should talk on the campaign trail about whatever issues are on the minds of the voters they need.

If they have to put aside Russia, China and even the warming of the Earth to focus on inflation, taxes and traffic jams, so be it. If the price of defeating Trumpism and its adherents is pretending the big issue is not Trump, that's OK too.

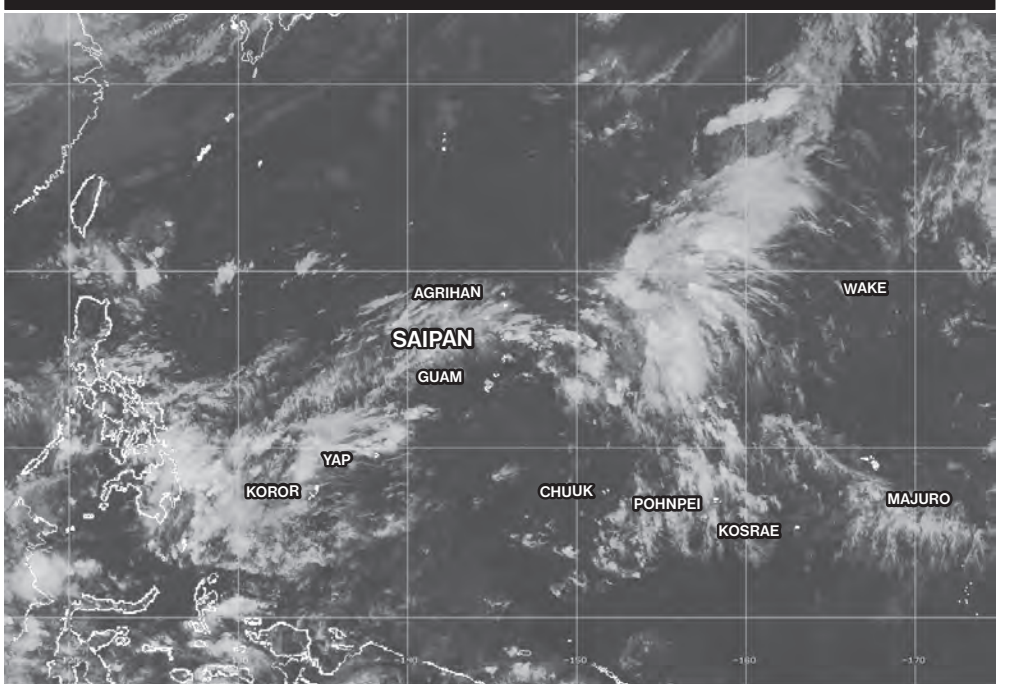
I get it. People have bills to pay and lives to live. But don't be fooled. The big threats—especially to American democracy and to the fate of the planet—may seem abstract but they matter more than ever.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy
88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 79°	88° 79°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:39 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The latest Doppler radar loop shows showers have really fallen by the wayside compared to a few hours ago, with satellite imagery confirming a downward trend in cumulus development. The buoys and altimetry date shows seas are averaging near 4 feet, with the buoys also showing a current water temperature of 86 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	72° / 59°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 21°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 73°
London	Sunny	43° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Rain	66° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 71°
New York	Showers	53° / 36°
Osaka	Sunny	52° / 39°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	45° / 32°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	50° / 39°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	54° / 34°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:23 AM	3:37 PM
Friday	-	3:24 AM	4:22 PM
Saturday	-	4:21 AM	5:03 PM
Sunday	-	5:16 AM	5:42 PM
Monday	-	6:10 AM	6:21 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:30 AM	High Tide	1.64
10:47 AM	Low Tide	-0.10
5:57 PM	High Tide	1.90
11:47 PM	Low Tide	0.96

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 6, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	4:00PM	11:05AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA

UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA192/112	10:25PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
UA184/112	11:50PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Guam
OZ704/623	11:55PM	2:30PM+1	2,5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

NARITA-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Huliganga is new president of Saipan Fil-American Lions Club

Saipan Fil-American Lions Club officers and members take a group photo after their installation and induction ceremony held last Oct. 1 at the Fiesta Hall of Grandvrio Resort Saipan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club installed its new officers and inducted five new members at the Fiesta Hall of Grandvrio Resort Saipan last Oct. 1.

The club is also celebrating its 30th anniversary in community service in the CNMI.

Immediate past district governor Saturnino "Atoy" Banting and Zone 1 chair Alicia Barbo inducted the new members and installed the new officers, respectively.

The new officers for the Lion Year 2022-2023 are president Maria Socorro Huliganga, first vice president Arvin Ian Salas, second vice president Vicente Obana, Lions Clubs International Foundation coordinator Marcelo Masilungan, secretary Maria Annamae Adaza, treasurer Edmin Elayda, Marketing and Communication chair Mario Mayuga, membership chair, LEO adviser, and club administrator Eden Mercado, Service chair Michelle Taisacan, assistant secretary Leonila Mendoza, assistant treasurer Yolanda De Ramos, auditor Ma. Teresa Obana, one-year directors Ronald De Ramos and Jessica Dizon, two-year directors Jean Pumatong and Teogenes Mendoza, safety officers Arturo Ancheta, Joselito Espino, Domingo Dy Jr., Segundo Lapeceros Jr., and Raul Dolotina, Lion tamer Jaime Del Peralta, and tail twister Anastacia Mercado.

"I was overwhelmed with the support of our fellow Lions. To Jerry Tan and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres I know they have hectic schedules but they were able to join us in our celebration," said Huliganga.

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club also presented a plaque of appreciation to Jerry Tan as club charter president, while Mayuga received the Charter Member award. Masilungan also received the Lion of the Year award from the home club, as the club president for Lion Year 2021-2022 as well for his generous contribution to the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

The club was chartered way back in 1992, with the Makati Mabuhay Lions Club as the sponsor and endorsed by Multiple District 301-A2, Philippines. At that time District 204 was not yet established. The club charter president was Tan, and he was the keynote speaker of the event. Before he delivered his speech Tan showed a video of their activities way back in 1992. He also brought his charter officers who are still on the island, Ross Zapanta, Nimfa Canedo, and Dannie Robles.

Torres also served as one of the guest speakers of the event, and he is an honorary member of the club as well. He is thankful for all Lions clubs' contributions to the CNMI community.

The Lions clubs here on Saipan are composed of nine clubs, namely Saipan Fil-American Lions Club, Saipan Unity LC, Saipan Marianas LC, Saipan Alliance LC, Saipan Centennial LC, Saipan Natibu Lions Club, Saipan Fitbeat Lions Club, Saipan Pacific LC, and Saipan Infinity Lions Club. The event was hosted by the club secretary Adaza.

To know more about Lions Clubs International, visit its website at www.lionsclubs.org. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Fil-American Lions Club president Socorro Huliganga.

Immediate past district governor Saturnino "Atoy" Banting gives Jerry Tan and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres medals as appreciation for their support for the Lions clubs in the CNMI. Also in photo is Eden Mercado. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jerry Tan, fifth from left, accepts his club charter president plaque from Saipan Fil-American Lions Club president Socorro Huliganga. Also in photo are, from left, Dannie Robles, Ross Zapanta, Nimfa Canedo, Annamae Adaza, Tan, Socorro Huliganga, Eden Mercado, Marcelo Masilungan, Michael Guirey, and Mario Mayuga CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mario Mayuga, fourth from left, receives his Charter Member award. Also in photo are, from left, Annamae Adaza, Milagros Pellegrino, Eden Mercado, Marcelo Masilungan, and Socorro Huliganga.

Saipan Fil-American Lions Club's newly inducted officers led by Socorro Huliganga, 11th from left. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marcelo Masilungan, fourth from left, receives his Lion of the Year award. Also in photo area, from left, Mario Mayuga, Milagros Pellegrino, Eden Mercado, Socorro Huliganga, and Annamae Adaza.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE
10/06/2022

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

AMENDED
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after October 24, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
CHCC Community Guidance Center Transitional Living Center and Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Center.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Community Guidance Center (CGC) is the single state agency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Transitional Living Center under CGC. The proposed rehabilitation is to repair damages from Typhoon Yutu. The center requires replacement of doors, door jambs, door locks, painting of interior and exterior building and rooms. This includes electrical outlets, switches, light fixtures, and convert to LED lighting. The replacement of existing tins to new ones and replacement of existing wood truss in exterior balcony. The plumbing will have be redone according to code standards, replace toilets, toilet seats, showerheads, water valves, drain pipes for all bathroom and kitchen. Replace kitchen cabinets, sinks, and counters and install new ones.

The Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery (SATR) Clinic, is also a program within the CGC. The proposed rehabilitation is to repair damages from typhoon Yutu. The damages for repair include exterior and interior doors, door jambs, and door locks. They also include replacement of vinyl floor tiles on the first and second floors. Removal of existing water and sewer lines to conform to building code standards. Repair and replace bathroom walls, facets, lavatory, water closet, all ADA required updates including handle bars and door sizes. Removal and replacement of all damaged wood closets and paint. Replacement of all electrical conduits with weatherproof GFCI outlets for the exterior and new electrical outlets in the interior of the building. Replacement of all ceiling light fixtures interior and exterior. Removal and replacement of all electrical breakers and panels. Installation of typhoon shutters on all doors and windows. Repainting on interior and exterior buildings and rooms.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the Commonwealth Health Center Community Guidance Center Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Clinic is an essential component that support individuals and families affected with substance abuse disorders with essential information and coping skills to pursue health, wellness, and recovery.

Location:
Gloria Dr., Navy Hill, Saipan MP 96950

Total Project Cost:
Amend the project cost from $710,000.00 to $930,000.00 in CDBG-DR funding
No other funding sources were identified

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipanamined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **October 24, 2022, 4:00 p.m.,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Project Activity/Type:
CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Communications Center Tower Rehabilitation Project.

The CNMI HSEM proposes to rehabilitate the communications center tower that is the lifeline of telecommunications for the entire CNMI. The tower has incurred structural damage from previous typhoons but more so with Typhoon Yutu. An assessment to the tower was done after the typhoons and damages to the ladder, steel structure and exposure of various sections ranging from 50 feet to 200 feet. It was also determined that 75% of the tower sustained moderate damage due to its exposure to strong winds and heavy rainfall. The lower 50 feet of the tower sustained minimal damage as its current position is protected by the carved portion of Mt. Tapochau.

Purpose:
The communications center tower is the main focal point of reception and transmission in the CNMI. The potential loss of the communications center tower would result in no communications or ability to support antennas for the telecommunications and broadcasting within and throughout the CNMI as it is utilized by the government and civilian population as the main transmission points of the islands. The need for this rehabilitation affects government, public and private communications and especially for emergency communications. The damages sustained from Typhoon Yutu have left the tower vulnerable to continued wind and rain damage. This in turn exposes sections of the tower to corrosion and deterioration throughout the structure. The corrosion and condition of the communications center tower currently present difficulty in repairs to minor fixes due to its unique location and height resulting in the need for a proper rehabilitation.

Location:
Mt. Tapochau, Saipan MP 96950

Total Project Cost:
$1,883,100.00 in CDBG-DR funding
No other funding sources were identified

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular working hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

Business

Musk says he wants Twitter again and will pay $44B tag

By TOM KRISHER, MATT O'BRIEN, RANDALL CHASE and BARBARA ORTUTAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elon Musk wants Twitter again—and Twitter is game. The billionaire Tesla CEO has proposed to buy the company at the originally agreed-on price of $44 billion, bringing the tumultuous, monthslong saga another step closer to a conclusion.

Musk made the surprising turnaround not on Twitter, as has been his custom, but in a letter to Twitter that the company disclosed in a filing Tuesday with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

It came less than two weeks before a trial between the two parties over Musk's attempt to back out of the deal is scheduled to start in Delaware. Musk also faced a scheduled deposition by Twitter attorneys starting Thursday.

In response, Twitter said it intends to close the transaction at $54.20 per share after receiving the letter from Musk. But the company stopped short of saying it's dropping its lawsuit against the billionaire Tesla CEO. Experts said that makes sense given the contentious relationship and lack of trust between the two parties.

"I don't think Twitter will give up its trial date on just Musk's word—it's going to need more certainty about closing," said Andrew Jennings, professor at Brooklyn Law School, noting that the company may also be worried about Musk's proposal being a delay tactic. After all, he's already tried to unsuccessfully postpone the trial twice.

Trading in Twitter's stock, which had been halted for much of the day pending release of the news, resumed trading late Tuesday and soared 22% to close at $52.

But even if the deal now goes through without a hitch, it's too soon to call a victory for Twitter, said Jasmine Enberg, an analyst with Insider Intelligence.

"The deal will solve some of the short-term uncertainty at the company, but Twitter is essentially in the same place it was in April," she said. "There is still plenty of uncertainty around what Musk intends to do with Twitter, as well as the future of a company with a leader who has wavered in his commitment to buying it. And if we've learned anything from this saga, it's that Musk is unpredictable and that it isn't over yet."

'Best Before' labels scrutinized as food waste concerns grow

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

As awareness grows around the world about the problem of food waste, one culprit in particular is drawing scrutiny: "best before" labels.

Manufacturers have used the labels for decades to estimate peak freshness. Unlike "use by" labels, which are found on perishable foods like meat and dairy, "best before" labels have nothing to do with safety and may encourage consumers to throw away food that's perfectly fine to eat.

"They read these dates and then they assume that it's bad, they can't eat it and they toss it, when these dates don't actually mean that they're not edible or they're not still nutritious or tasty," said Patty Apple, a manager at Food Shift, an Alameda, California, nonprofit that collects and uses expired or imperfect foods.

To tackle the problem, major U.K. chains like Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer recently removed "best before" labels from prepackaged fruit and vegetables. The European Union is expected to announce a revamp to its labeling laws by the end of this year; it's considering abolishing "best before" labels altogether.

In the U.S., there's no similar push to scrap "best before" labels. But there is growing momentum to standardize the language on date labels to help educate buyers about food waste, including a push from big grocers and food companies and bipartisan legislation in Congress.

"I do think that the level of support for this has grown tremendously," said Dana Gunders, executive director of ReFED, a New York-based nonprofit that studies food waste.

The United Nations estimates that 17% of global food production is wasted each year; most of that comes from households. In the U.S., as much as 35% of food available goes uneaten, ReFED says. That adds up to a lot of wasted energy—including the water, land and labor that goes into the food production—and higher greenhouse gas emissions when unwanted food goes into landfills.

Depositors storm 4 Lebanese banks, demanding their own money

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanese depositors, including a retired police officer, stormed at least four banks in the cash-strapped country Tuesday after banks ended a weeklong closure and partially reopened.

As the tiny Mediterranean nation's crippling economic crisis continues to worsen, a growing number of Lebanese depositors have opted to break into banks and forcefully withdraw their trapped savings. Lebanon's cash-strapped banks have imposed informal limits on cash withdrawals. The break-ins reflect growing public anger toward the banks and the authorities who have struggled to reform the country's corrupt and battered economy.

Three-quarters of the population has plunged into poverty in an economic crisis that the World Bank describes as one of the worst in over a century. Meanwhile, the Lebanese pound has lost 90% of its value against the dollar, making it difficult for millions across the country to cope with skyrocketing prices.

Ali al-Sahli, a retired officer who served in Lebanon's Internal Security Forces, raided a BLC Bank branch in the eastern town of Chtaura, demanding $24,000 in trapped savings to transfer to his son, who owes rent and tuition fees in Ukraine.

"Count the money, before one of you dies," al-Sahli said in a video he recorded with one hand while waving a gun in the other.

According to Depositors' Outcry, a protest group, al-Sahli said he had offered to sell his kidney to fund his son's expenses after the bank for months blocked him from transferring money. With his son owing months of rent and tuition, the retired officer reached out to the protest group for help.

In the video he filmed on his cellphone, al-Sahli waved a handgun, threatening to shoot, if bank employees didn't oblige. Employees struggled to calm him down, as protesters from the depositors group and bystanders watched from outside.

Nation

Floridians endure a slow wait for power knocked out by Ian

AP

Gerry Arnold leaves Pine Island, Fla., after gathering a few belongings from his home after Hurricane Ian left behind widespread damage across the city on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. (AP)—Hurricane Ian may be long gone from Florida, but workers on the ground were pushing ahead Tuesday to restore power and search for anyone still trapped inside flooded or damaged homes.

The number of storm-related deaths has risen to at least 84 in recent days, both because of the dangers posed by cleaning up and as search and rescue crews comb through the hardest-hit areas. Officials said that as of Monday, more than 2,350 people had been rescued throughout the state.

At least 75 people were killed in Florida, five in North Carolina, three in Cuba and one in Virginia since Ian made landfall on the Caribbean island on Sept. 27, a day before it reached Florida's Gulf Coast. After churning northeastward into the Atlantic, the hurricane made another landfall in South Carolina before pushing into the mid-Atlantic states.

There have been deaths in vehicle wrecks, drownings and accidents. A man drowned after becoming trapped under a vehicle. Another got trapped trying to climb through a window. And a woman died when a gust of wind knocked her off her porch while she was smoking a cigarette as the storm approached, authorities said.

In hardest-hit Lee County, Florida, all 45 people killed by the hurricane were over age 50.

As floodwaters begin to recede, power restoration has become job one.

In Naples, Kelly Sedgwick was just seeing news footage Monday of the devastation. Her electricity was restored four days after the hurricane slammed into her community of roughly 22,000 people. She praised the crews for their hard work: "They've done a remarkable job."

A few miles north along the coast in Bonita Springs, Catalina Mejilla's family wasn't as lucky. She was still using a borrowed generator to try to keep her kids and their grandfather cool as temperatures in the typically humid area reached the upper 80s (about 30 degrees Celsius).

"The heat is unbearable," Mejilla said. "When there's no power ... we can't make food, we don't have gas." Her mother has trouble breathing and needed to go to a friend's house with electricity.

Ian knocked out power to 2.6 million customers across Florida after it roared ashore with 150 mph (241 kph) winds and a powerful storm surge. State officials said they expect power to be restored by Sunday to customers whose power lines and other electric infrastructure is still intact.

About 400,000 homes and businesses in Florida were still without power Tuesday.

Eric Silagy, Chairman and CEO of Florida Power & Light—the largest power provider in the state—said he understands the frustration and that 21,000 utility workers from 30 states are working as hard as they can to restore power as quickly as possible. The utility expects to have power restored to 95% of its service areas by the end of the day Friday, he said.

The remaining 5% are mostly special situations where it's difficult to restore electricity, such as the home being so damaged it can't receive power or the area still being flooded. Those outages don't include customers whose homes or businesses were destroyed.

Another major electricity provider in the hard-hit coastal region, Lee County Electric Cooperative, said Monday that it expects to hit the 95% mark by the end of Saturday. That figure doesn't include barrier islands such as Sanibel that are in its service area.

Power restoration is always a key challenge after major hurricanes, when high winds and flying debris can topple power lines or major parts of the electricity infrastructure.

Silagy said the utility has invested $4 billion over the last 10 years to harden its infrastructure, doing things like burying more power lines, noting that 40% of its distribution system is now underground. The utility is also using more technology such as drones that can stay aloft for hours to get a better picture of damage, and sensors at substations that alert the utility to flooding so it can shut off parts of the system before the water arrives.

Silagy said he saw during Ian where those investments paid off. Concrete utility poles remained standing at Fort Myers Beach, where many homes and businesses were wiped away. The company also didn't lose a single transmission structure in the 8,000 miles (12,875 kilometers) it covers in Florida.

Asia

Seoul reprisal blows up after North Korean missile success

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A malfunctioning South Korean ballistic missile blew up as it plowed into the ground Wednesday during a live-fire drill with the United States that was a reprisal for North Korea's successful launch a day earlier of a weapon that flew over Japan and has the range to strike the U.S. territory of Guam.

The explosion and subsequent fire panicked and confused residents of the coastal city of Gangneung, who were already uneasy over the increasingly provocative weapons tests by rival North Korea. Their concern that it could be a North Korean attack only grew as the military and government officials provided no explanation about the explosion for hours.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said no injuries have been reported from the explosion, which involved a short-range Hyumoo-2 missile that crashed inside an air force base in the outskirts of the city. It said the crash didn't affect any civilian facilities.

Kwon Seong-dong, a ruling party lawmaker representing Gangneung, wrote on Facebook that a "weapons system operated by our blood-like taxpayer money ended up threatening our own people" and called for the military to thoroughly investigate the missile failure. He also criticized the military for not issuing a notice about the failure while maintaining a media embargo on the joint drills.

"It was an irresponsible response," Kwon wrote. "They don't even have an official press release yet."

South Korea's military acknowledged the malfunction hours after internet users raised alarm about the blast and posted social media videos showing an orange ball of flames emerging from an area they described as near the air force base. It said it was investigating what caused the "abnormal flight" of the missile.

Officials at Gangneung's fire department and city hall said emergency workers were dispatched to the air force base and a nearby army base in response to calls about a possible explosion but were sent back by military officials.

The U.S. and South Korean militaries are conducting the joint exercises to show their ability to deter a North Korean attack on the South. During Tuesday's drills, they conducted bombing runs by F-15 strike jets using precision munitions and launched two missiles each that are part of the Army Tactical Missile System.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan was scheduled to return to waters east of South Korea on Wednesday to demonstrate the allies' "firm will" to counter North's continued provocations and threats. The carrier was part of drills last week with South Korea and Japan.

Motorcycle-riding gunmen kill Philippine radio commentator

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Motorcycle-riding gunmen killed a longtime radio commentator in metropolitan Manila in the latest attack on a member of the media in the Philippines, considered one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists.

Police said Percival Mabasa, 63, was driving his vehicle Monday night when two men on a motorcycle approached and shot him twice in the head in suburban Las Pinas City.

The attackers escaped and an investigation is underway to identify and locate them, police officials said. They said investigators are trying to determine the motive for the attack.

Mabasa, who used the broadcast name Percy Lapid, was critical of former President Rodrigo Duterte, who oversaw a deadly crackdown on illegal drugs, and his successor, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the son of a dictator who was ousted in a 1986 pro-democracy uprising.

Media watchdogs condemned Mabasa's killing, saying the attack underscores how deadly the Philippines remains for journalists.

"That the incident took place in Metro Manila indicates how brazen the perpetrators were and how authorities have failed to protect journalists as well as ordinary citizens from harm," the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said in a statement.

Amnesty International said the attack "bears all the hallmarks of an extrajudicial execution and an attempt to silence voices critical of the government."

The victim's family condemned the "brutal and brazen killing" and demanded that the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

Mabasa is the second journalist killed under Marcos Jr., who took office in June. Radio broadcaster Rey Blanco was stabbed to death during an altercation last month in central Negros Oriental province. The suspect immediately surrendered to police.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bus plunges into gorge in India; kills 25 on board

NEW DELHI (AP) — A bus in northern India plunged into a gorge, leaving at least 25 dead and 20 others injured, officials said. Police told the Press Trust of India news agency there were 45 to 50 people on board the bus, all of whom were part of a wedding party, when it fell Tuesday evening into a gorge in Pauri district in Uttarakhand state. State police and the disaster response force worked alongside locals to rescue 21 people Tuesday night at the site of the crash, police chief Ashok Kumar tweeted. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said all possible assistance will be given to those affected and that rescue operations are still underway.

Power back in Bangladesh after grid failure causes blackout

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Electricity supply across Bangladesh has been restored after the South Asian country plunged into a blackout following the failure of its national power grid, officials said. The blackout, which impacted much of the country, started at 2:05 p.m. on Tuesday and lasted for nearly seven hours before power was completely restored at 9 p.m. It was not immediately clear what caused the glitch. Many large shopping malls in the capital, Dhaka, closed early on Tuesday evening. Elsewhere, people gathered at fuel stations to collect diesel to run standby generators and market vendors operated amid candlelight.

World

Retreating Russian forces leave their comrades' bodies behind

Ukrainian servicemen find a body of their comrade on the destroyed petrol station in the recently recaptured town of Lyman, Ukraine, Monday, Oct. 3, 2022. AP

LYMAN, Ukraine (AP)—Russian troops abandoned a key Ukrainian city so rapidly that they left the bodies of their comrades in the streets, offering more evidence Tuesday of Moscow's latest military defeat as it struggles to hang on to four regions of Ukraine that it illegally annexed last week.

Meanwhile, Russia's upper house of parliament rubber-stamped the annexations following "referendums" that Ukraine and its Western allies have dismissed as fraudulent.

Responding to the move, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy formally ruled out talks with Russia, declaring that negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin are impossible after his decision to take over the regions.

The Kremlin replied by saying that it will wait for Ukraine to agree to sit down for talks, noting that it may not happen until a new Ukrainian president takes office.

"We will wait for the incumbent president to change his position or wait for a future Ukrainian president who would revise his stand in the interests of the Ukrainian people," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Despite the Kremlin's apparent political bravado, the picture on the ground underscored the disarray Putin faces amid the Ukrainian advances and attempts to establish new Russian borders.

Over the weekend, Russian troops pulled back from Lyman, a strategic eastern town that the Russians had used as a logistics and transport hub, to avoid being encircled by Ukrainian forces. The town's liberation gave Ukraine an important vantage point for pressing its offensive deeper into Russian-held territories.

Two days later, an Associated Press team reporting from Lyman saw at least 18 bodies of Russian soldiers still on the ground. The Ukrainian military appeared to have collected the bodies of their comrades after fierce battles for control of the town, but they did not immediately remove those of the Russians.

"We fight for our land, for our children, so that our people can live better, but all this comes at a very high price," said a Ukrainian soldier who goes by the nom de guerre Rud.

Drug capo among 16 dead in bloody Ecuador prison riot

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—The death toll from a bloody fight among inmates at a prison in central Ecuador rose to 16 Tuesday, and authorities said one of the dead was an alleged drug gang boss who had evaded charges in Peru by faking his death during the pandemic.

Officials said the number of wounded from clashes among inmates armed with guns and knives at the state prison in Latacunga stood at 43, with two in critical condition. The fighting erupted Monday and continued into the early hours of Tuesday.

The drug capo was identified as Leonardo Norero, alias "El Patron." Authorities said that they could confirm his death but that rules allowed details of how he died to be given only to his family.

Norero, 35, had been arrested in an exclusive area of Guayaquil in late May during a raid that officials said seized 42 gold bars, weapons, jewelry and about $7 million in cash. They said he owned at least seven companies and luxury real estate, among other assets.

He was being held at the medium-security prison in Latacunga, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of the capital, Quito, while awaiting trial on drug trafficking and money laundering charges.

Norero also was wanted on drug trafficking charges in Peru, where authorities say he managed to evade justice in mid-2020 by faking his own death amid the coronavirus pandemic and escaping to Ecuador. His lawyers had presented a falsified death certificate and purported photos of his death.

Dozens of soldiers arrived at the Ecuadorean prison at midday Tuesday to reinforce security while administrative personnel were evacuated from inside the complex.

In recent years, Ecuador's state prisons have seen numerous bloody clashes between rival groups of prisoners, which authorities have blamed on disputes among rival drug gang members.

Life & Style

Jolie details Brad Pitt abuse allegations in court filing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A court filing Tuesday from Angelina Jolie alleges that on a 2016 flight, Brad Pitt grabbed her by the head and shook her then choked one of their children and struck another when they tried to defend her.

The descriptions of abuse on the private flight came in a cross-complaint Jolie filed in the couple's dispute over a French home and winery they co-owned that is separate from their ongoing divorce, which she sought soon after.

A representative for Pitt, who was not authorized to speak publicly, strongly denied Jolie's allegations and called them "another rehash that only harms the family."

The allegations of abuse on the plane first became public shortly after the flight, but reports were initially vague and details were kept sealed in divorce documents and investigations by the FBI and Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, both of which found that no action against Pitt was necessary.

A judge gave Pitt 50-50 custody of the children after a closed-door trial in which the allegations were aired. But an appeals court subsequently disqualified the private judge for not disclosing possible conflicts of interest after a motion from Jolie, nullifying the decision.

AP

This combination photo shows Angelina Jolie at a premiere in Los Angeles on Sept. 30, 2019, left, and Brad Pitt at a special screening on Sept. 18, 2019.

More details of the allegations were revealed earlier this year when a Jolie lawsuit against the FBI over a Freedom of Information Act request was made public.

The New York Times first reported the court filing.

The filing says that on Sept. 14, 2016, Jolie, Pitt and their six children were traveling from the winery, Chateau Miraval, to Los Angeles.

"Pitt's aggressive behavior started even before the family got to the airport, with Pitt having a confrontation with one of the children. After the flight took off, Jolie approached Pitt and asked him what was wrong," the filing says. "Pitt accused her of being too deferential to the children and verbally attacked her."

Later, it says, "He pulled her into the bathroom and began yelling at her. Pitt grabbed Jolie by the head and shook her, and then grabbed her shoulders and shook her again before pushing her into the bathroom wall."

One of the children, who were between 8 and 15 years old at the time, verbally defended Jolie, the countersuit says, and Pitt lashed out.

"Pitt lunged at his own child and Jolie grabbed him from behind to stop him. To get Jolie off his back, Pitt threw himself backwards into the airplane's seats injuring Jolie's back and elbow," the filing says. "The children rushed in and all bravely tried to protect each other. Before it was over, Pitt choked one of the children and struck another in the face."

The document says he subsequently poured beer on Jolie and poured beer and red wine on the children.

Jolie's gave an account of the flight to two FBI investigators in the days that followed. It appeared in a heavily redacted report later released by the agency.

It included a photo of a bruise on Jolie's elbow and a "rug-burn type injury" on her hand. In it she said that she had seen Pitt have two to three drinks, but said he appeared articulate and not intoxicated.

The investigators met with federal prosecutors, and "It was agreed by all parties that criminal charges in this case would not be pursued due to several factors," the report says.

An FBI statement said it has "conducted a review of the circumstances and will not pursue further investigation."

Loretta Lynn, coal miner's daughter and country queen, dies

Lynn

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Loretta Lynn, the Kentucky coal miner's daughter whose frank songs about life and love as a woman in Appalachia pulled her out of poverty and made her a pillar of country music, has died. She was 90.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, Lynn's family said she died Tuesday at her home in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee.

"Our precious mom, Loretta Lynn, passed away peacefully this morning, October 4th, in her sleep at home in her beloved ranch in Hurricane Mills," the family said in a statement. They asked for privacy as they grieve and said a memorial will be announced later.

Lynn already had four children before launching her career in the early 1960s, and her songs reflected her pride in her rural Kentucky background.

As a songwriter, she crafted a persona of a defiantly tough woman, a contrast to the stereotypical image of most female country singers. The Country Music Hall of Famer wrote fearlessly about sex and love, cheating husbands, divorce and birth control and sometimes got in trouble with radio programmers for material from which even rock performers once shied away.

Her biggest hits came in the 1960s and '70s, including "Coal Miner's Daughter," "You Ain't Woman Enough," "The Pill," "Don't Come Home a Drinkin' (With Lovin' on Your Mind)," "Rated X" and "You're Looking at Country." She was known for appearing in floor-length, wide gowns with elaborate embroidery or rhinestones, many created by her longtime personal assistant and designer Tim Cobb.

Her honesty and unique place in country music was rewarded. She was the first woman ever named entertainer of the year at the genre's two major awards shows, first by the Country Music Association in 1972 and then by the Academy of Country Music three years later.

"It was what I wanted to hear and what I knew other women wanted to hear, too," Lynn told the AP in 2016. "I didn't write for the men; I wrote for us women. And the men loved it, too."

In 1969, she released her autobiographical "Coal Miner's Daughter," which helped her reach her widest audience yet.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Man charged with damaging Scott Joplin House

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A man was charged Tuesday with breaking into the historic home of ragtime composer Scott Joplin and causing tens of thousands of dollars' worth of damage.

Thirty-eight-year-old Kevin Daley-Bey faces one count each of second-degree burglary and first-degree property damage. No attorney is listed for him in online court records.

Police said several windows were busted and artifacts were damaged Sunday morning at the Scott Joplin House. Damage also was reported at a construction building less than a block away.

Mexican actor guilty in Miami road rage death

MIAMI (AP)—A Mexican actor was convicted in South Florida on Tuesday of fatally punching a man during a road rage confrontation. A six-person jury in Miami-Dade circuit county found Pablo Lyle, 35, guilty of manslaughter, according to court records. He faces up to 15 years in prison. "Two lives were destroyed by simple roadway anger, a situation we see far too often on our streets and on streets across the country," Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said in a statement. Before his arrest in the United States, Lyle starred in several Televisa telenovelas and a Netflix crime show called "Yankee." His first major role was the lead on "La sombra del pasado."

Son-in-law tired of man's rude, insulting behavior

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law, who lives out of state, regularly makes crude jokes and comments about his sex life or my sex life in my presence and in the presence of my wife, his wife and others. He once commented to me that he would be excited to see his daughter, my wife, in bed with a woman.

I have expressed to my wife and mother-in-law how uncomfortable it is, but he doesn't stop the comments, even when confronted. He claims he wants to be close to me but refuses to address the concerns of his wife, daughter and son-in-law. It's reached the point that I try to avoid my in-laws when they visit, including volunteering to work extra shifts at work.

It concerns me that he occasionally makes these tasteless comments around my young daughters. I think he's a dirty old man. I can't stand being around him, but my wife and mother-in-law overlook his comments and think the world of him. Am I overreacting? How do I continue to interact with him given my distaste for him?

CREEPED OUT IN GEORGIA

DEAR CREEPED OUT: I don't blame you for being creeped out. Your father-in-law appears to be not only a "dirty old man" but an obsessive one. While your wife and her mother may be prepared to overlook his inappropriate behavior, I don't think your young daughters should be subjected to it. For that matter, neither should you be. If your FIL wants to be "close" to you, the price he will have to pay will be to watch his mouth, or you will take the girls to a park, a lunch, a movie, etc. while he's there.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Elaine" and I live in different states. Until last year, we were communicating by phone and text. She and her family were set to visit me, but all of a sudden Elaine stopped responding to my texts and phone calls. I finally texted her asking if she was still planning to visit. She texted me back four words: "No. We're not coming," and we haven't communicated since.

This isn't the first time my sister has cut me off. Usually, after a few months of silence, she will call me and act like nothing happened, offering no apology or explanation. This hadn't happened in years, so I thought Elaine had finally grown out of it. I don't know why she's mad at me. I could speculate, but I resent playing this game. Having a relationship with her feels like walking through a minefield. I never know what I might say that will set her off.

I have considered writing her a letter telling her how hurtful her behavior is, but then I feel like it might enable her. I'm also afraid I'll say more that she will take offense to. Should I write her or just write her off?

ENOUGH ALREADY IN FLORIDA

DEAR ENOUGH: I think you should do both. Your sister Elaine is a pain in the posterior. Write and tell her how childish and rude her silent treatment has been and that you have had your fill of it. THEN write her off.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

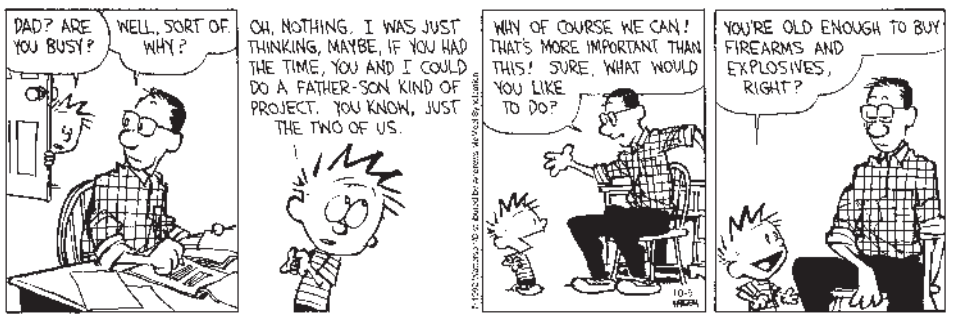
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

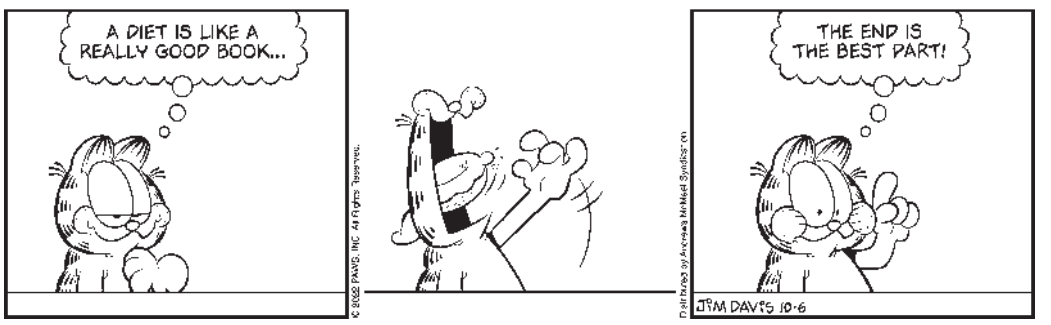
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DAD? ARE YOU BUSY?
WELL, SORT OF. WHY?
OH, NOTHING. I WAS JUST THINKING, MAYBE, IF YOU HAD THE TIME, YOU AND I COULD DO A FATHER-SON KIND OF PROJECT. YOU KNOW, JUST THE TWO OF US.
WHY OF COURSE WE CAN! THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS! SURE. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO BUY FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES, RIGHT?

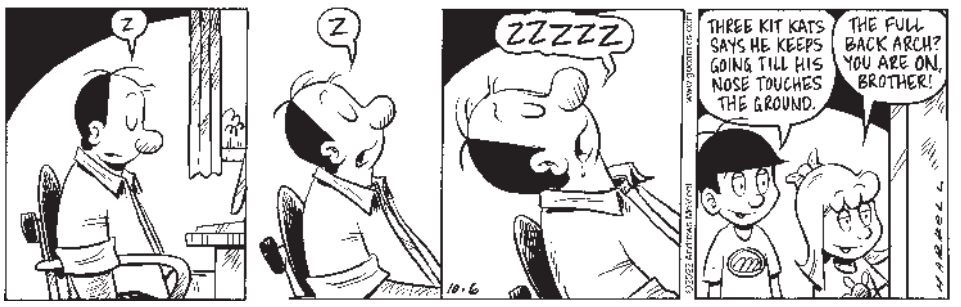
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



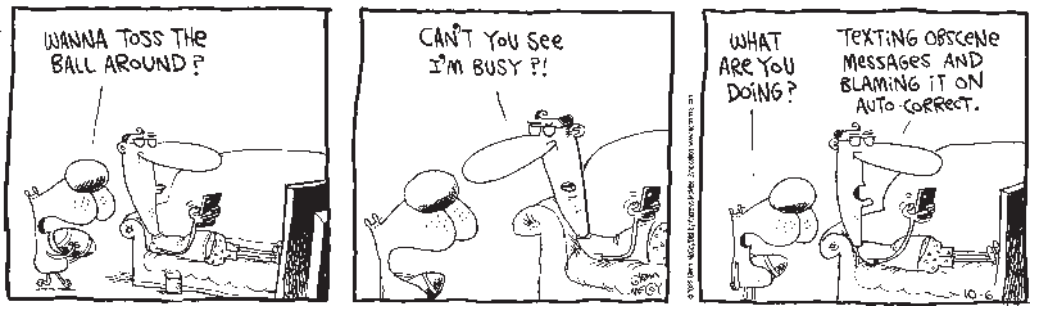
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WANNA TOSS THE BALL AROUND?
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TEXTING OBSCENE MESSAGES AND BLAMING IT ON AUTO-CORRECT.
10-6

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

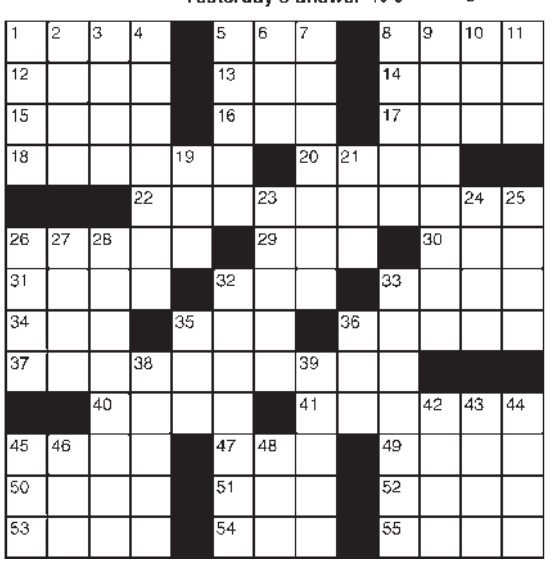
1 Pundit's piece
5 "Kapow!"
8 Ancient mariner
12 Carousel, for one
13 Half of dos
14 German car name
15 Hgt.
16 Baseball's Hodges
17 $ dispensers
18 Humble
20 Tolkien villains
22 Eye furtively
26 Plant firmly
29 Droop
30 Shelter
31 Librarian's advice
32 Enjoy Vail
33 Ink smudge
34 Fine, at NASA
35 Middling grade
36 '70s club
37 TV ratings period
40 Relaxing refuges
41 Fruity desserts
45 Spiced tea
47 Wedding words
49 Yuletide tune
50 Body powder
51 Popeye's Olive
52 Concept
53 Canonized Fr. women
54 Born
55 Pretzel seasoning

DOWN

1 Utah city
2 Heap
3 Idyllic place
4 Concocted
5 "Taps" instrument
6 Singer DiFranco
7 Hawaiian island
8 Civil rights org.
9 Moves more goods than
10 USN bigwig
11 That chap's
19 Moreover
21 Cleaning cloth
23 Cockeyed
24 Fair-hiring org.
25 Low-carb diet
26 Eventful periods
27 Calico's call
28 School fund-raiser
32 Time with a therapist
33 Skimpy suits
35 IRS employee
36 Aachen article
38 Grand stories
39 Paris school
42 Pop
43 Rind
44 Blind part
45 Dol. fractions
46 Fez, e.g.
48 Coloring agent

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Luisa D'Oliveira, 36; Jeremy Sisto, 48; Amy Jo Johnson, 52; Britt Ekland, 80.

Happy Birthday: Stay focused on what's important, and you will find success this year. Keep your spending down and your sights on running a cost-efficient life. Organization and preparation will set you apart from anyone trying to outmaneuver you. Being eager to learn and try new things will encourage you to reinvent something you enjoy doing into a service that has potential. Your numbers are 9, 13, 23, 25, 32, 36, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Simplify your life. Stop the madness and start to put things in order. Take the initiative to do something to your specifications, and others will see the merit in your words and actions. Be the one to make a difference. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take nothing for granted. Oversee whatever you want to achieve. Leave nothing to chance, and don't take a risk with money, health or contracts. Use your intelligence to revise what isn't working for you anymore. Hard work will bring about positive change. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put yourself and your talents on the line and do what you do best. Opportunities are apparent if you show up and present what you have to offer. Share feelings with someone you love. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Work quietly behind closed doors. Less outside interference will be crucial if you want to get things done. A last-minute change will impact a situation that is causing uncertainty. Go over the fine print before you agree to participate. Limit spending. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Adjust your life based on the information you receive. Socializing and attending reunions, conferences or seminars will motivate you to lower stress and enjoy life more. Concentrate on updating your look and nurturing meaningful relationships. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take a moment to digest what's happening, and you'll find it easier to come up with a solution. Walk away from tense situations that are bound to end in anger. Don't fuel the fire when a forward-thinking plan is what you need. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't wait for someone to outdo you. Put everything you've got into what you are trying to achieve, and you will learn a valuable lesson regarding doing the work yourself. Don't waste time on deadbeats. Choose your friends and partners based on equality. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't let uncertainty hold you back. Ask questions and discover what's possible. Don't let negativity stand between you and what you want. Be willing to compromise if it will help you move closer to your destination of choice. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't send mixed messages. Be frank, offer facts and don't sugarcoat information if you want to get things done correctly. Put emotions on the back burner and let intelligence be the driving force behind your decisions. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Consider how to make your money stretch. A domestic change that lowers overhead will ease stress and encourage you to find other ways to save. Simplify your daily routine and fine-tune your diet and exercise to reflect better health. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Keep working toward your goal; enjoy the fruits of your labor when you reach your destination. The satisfaction you gain from your accomplishments will make a powerful statement to others regarding what you have to offer. Romance looks promising. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stay focused on what's important and refuse to let others unnerve you. Temper flare-ups will put a wedge between you and someone you love. Don't say anything you'll regret. When in doubt, take a pass and keep your thoughts to yourself. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, helpful and a perfectionist. You are energetic and persistent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4		6			
	1		7		3		9	
		6				2		
2	3						8	5
				9				
7	9						4	6
		8				1		
	7		8		4		2	
			2		1			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesturday Answer

1	2	3	9	6	5	8	7	4
8	6	7	4	2	1	5	3	9
5	4	9	3	8	7	6	1	2
3	9	5	8	1	2	7	4	6
7	8	4	6	3	9	1	2	5
6	1	2	7	5	4	3	9	8
4	5	6	2	7	3	9	8	1
2	3	8	1	9	6	4	5	7
9	7	1	5	4	8	2	6	3

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

QUEEN ELIZABETH II (1926-2022) **Solution: 7 letters**

C	P	T	E	E	M	S	M	R	A	D	L	A	I	Y
T	H	M	L	T	L	G	U	A	R	D	S	R	R	L
I	I	A	O	M	A	R	G	A	R	E	T	D	O	O
M	L	I	R	C	R	O	W	N	N	Y	T	N	S	H
O	I	L	O	L	G	D	C	N	H	D	H	A	D	G
T	P	L	Y	O	E	Q	U	E	E	N	R	X	N	R
H	E	I	A	N	O	S	A	C	U	A	O	E	I	U
Y	S	W	L	D	R	D	G	J	H	G	N	L	W	B
T	R	I	S	O	G	S	E	N	U	E	E	A	I	N
S	O	R	T	N	E	L	S	C	I	B	S	N	I	I
E	H	H	A	I	L	L	W	I	N	F	I	S	I	D
J	T	B	H	H	R	I	E	D	G	I	E	L	E	E
A	A	E	V	A	R	B	N	A	N	R	R	I	E	H
M	O	T	E	C	A	L	A	P	D	I	O	P	R	E
R	E	H	T	O	M	A	H	G	N	I	K	C	U	B

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Alexandra, Andrew, Anne, Arms, Bills, Brave, Briefings, British, Buckingham, Charles, Coat, Corgis, Crown, Diana, Duchess, Edinburgh, Edward, Eugenie, George, Guards, Hail, Harry, Hats, Head, Heir, Holy, Horse, Jubilee, Kind, Lead, London, Majesty, Margaret, Mary, Meet, Mother, News, Oath, Palace, Philip, Prince, Queen, Role, Royal, Throne, Timothy, William, Windsor

Yesterday's Answer: Gathering

The NEW **Treasury 50** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Analysis: Wembanyama showed the repertoire, as NBA watched

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP)—Victor Wembanyama didn't wait long to make an impression.

The 7-foot-4 French phenomenon from the club Metropolitans 92 blocked shots at the rim and on the perimeter, got rebounds, ran the floor, set screens, scored on a nifty spin move, showed off his ability to dribble, dove for a loose ball and even played point guard on one possession.

Oh, and all that was in the first two minutes.

Talk about setting the tone. The 200 scouts and NBA executives who came to see a show didn't have to pay for their tickets Tuesday night, but if they had, they wouldn't have been short-changed at any price. Wembanyama showed off all the skills that have him widely presumed to be the No. 1 pick in the 2023 NBA draft.

His final numbers, in his first game under NBA rules and with 12-minute quarters: 37 points, 11-for-20 shooting, seven 3-pointers, five blocked shots, four rebounds.

"He was amazing, sometimes," Metropolitans 92 coach Vincent Collet said.

The final score, as if it mattered: G League Ignite 122, Metropolitans 92 115, with Scoot Henderson — the consensus No. 2 pick, as of now anyway — finishing with 28 points and nine assists for the Ignite.

The teams will play again Thursday afternoon; after that, the next time Wembanyama plays a game of any significance on U.S. soil will likely be at Summer League next July.

"It was a great experience, a great experience," Wembanyama said. "I can't wait to do it again. I know we'll do it again in two days, and then for the rest of my life."

Much of the Wembanyama repertoire was on full display, and it was as good as advertised. He made 3-pointers. Step-back jumpers. Did what seemed to be mildly reminiscent of the Michael Jordan shrug from the 1992 NBA Finals after one of those shots fell. Played through what appeared to be a bit of a twisted ankle, making a fadeaway 3 while doing so. He even argued foul calls like a seasoned NBA veteran and may have had a legitimate case on a couple occasions.

There are many ways for the 18-year-old to get better. But it's clear: He's ready for the NBA, ready for the scrutiny that will come going into the draft, the scrutiny that will come if he indeed is the No. 1 pick.

AP

Boulogne-Levallois Metropolitans 92's Victor Wembanyama, center, guards NBA G League Ignite's Scoot Henderson, right, during the first half of an exhibition basketball game Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022, in Henderson, Nev.

"He's really a talented player," Ignite coach Jason Hart said.

Even the stuff that didn't show up next to Wembanyama's name in the box score was eye-popping at times. Case in point: a play midway through the second quarter when he set a pick near midcourt, rolled, caught a pass a couple inches inside the 3-point line, took one dribble and went airborne — because by then, he was already in the middle of the lane. He tried to elevate over multiple Ignite players, took a shot, got fouled, shrugged off the contact and dunked the rebound.

It didn't count, but still had some sitting courtside reacting in disbelief.

There are always shows in Vegas, but Cirque du Soleil wasn't the French brand capturing the basketball world's attention on Tuesday night.

San Antonio executive R.C. Buford and Oklahoma City general manager Sam Presti were chatting pregame. Chris Paul, Devin Booker and Trevor Ariza, in town with the Phoenix Suns to play the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night, showed up to watch with seats near the Metropolitans bench. DeMarcus Cousins grabbed a seat near the Ignite bench. Chelsea Gray and A'ja Wilson of the WNBA champion Las Vegas Aces — coming off a FIBA World Cup gold medal won a few days ago as well — watched from one of the baselines. The WNBA trophy even made an appearance.

"Everyone's going to be watching him," said Metropolitans 92 guard Tremont Waters, who has played for three NBA clubs.

And this wasn't just The Victor Show, either. Henderson — another super-talented 18-year-old — believes he should be the No. 1 pick and had more than his share of moments. He got around Wembanyama's incredible 8-foot wingspan a couple times for layups, got him in the air to set up assists to Ignite teammates a couple more times, made a step-back 3 over him as well.

"Scoot's pretty good," Hart said.

He also tried what would have been a dunk with 3:31 left. Wembanyama swatted it away with ease. Henderson also tried a 3 with 1:31 left; Wembanyama sent that into the seats.

But Henderson — who was 11 for 21 from the field, three of those 10 misses being blocks by Wembanyama — more than lived up to his end of the bargain in this made-for-TV showdown.

"This game meant a lot to Scoot," said Ignite forward Shareef O'Neal, the son of Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal. "That's my No. 1 pick."

Said Henderson: "I feel like I impacted the game."

Henderson showed some fire. He gave the Metropolitans' bench a long look when time was called in the second quarter and the Ignite were starting to build their lead. Wembanyama had a little edge to him as well; he made a 3-pointer from near the Ignite bench early in the second half, then turned and gave those seated there a look, then converted a four-point play on his next possession.

Nicolas Batum, who played for Collet at the Tokyo Olympics in the summer of 2021 and the 2019 Basketball World Cup in China, tweeted this during the second half: "One thing for sure is that the first 2 picks are LOCKED for the next NBA draft."

Much can change between now and June. But Batum's prediction seems pretty safe.

A Victor vs. Scoot show was what the NBA wanted. It delivered.

Harden knows he's no longer the man in Philadelphia

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—James Harden and Joel Embiid are beefing over who has been the most unbeatable Sixer during 1-on-1 competition at training camp. The smack talk escalated this week after a recent practice, each one badgering the other over who really is the alpha dog in Philly.

Who's the better scorer? Rebounder? Nah, the thorny topic in this instance, gaming.

Harden tells Embiid he can beat him in FIFA.

"Of course," Harden said.

"He said 'OF COURSE,'" Embiid said, unable to stifle his laughter.

"How many games we play?" Embiid said. "Five games?"

"I don't remember," Harden retorted. "I haven't played in four years. I used to be really, really good."

So The Beard pokes reporters to quiz Embiid about his skills in Madden. Embiid insisted he doesn't play the football video game on a regular basis, but conceded of Harden, "he's good."

"But give me two weeks," Embiid said, "I'll be the best."

Embiid already is the 76ers' go-to guy once the controllers go down and the basketball is tossed up. The question that looms over the Sixers is can they get the two to mesh in their first full season together so they can contend for a title -- especially when Harden has to defer to last season's MVP runner-up?

No longer needed to average 30-plus points a game as he did when he starred as one of the NBA's great isolation scorers, Harden is now the No. 2 in the Philadelphia's 1-2 punch. Embiid is the reigning NBA scoring champion and the face of the franchise.

The 33-year-old Harden, the 2018 MVP, is trying to prove he's recovered from lingering tightness in his left hamstring last season that decimated his explosiveness and forced him into "tough times, lot of dark moments." He took less money to return to the Sixers and dropped some weight over the summer. He's in better condition and serving as a mentor of sorts to blossoming talent, like Tyrese Maxey.

"You've got to be a leader," 76ers coach Doc Rivers expressed to Harden after Thursday's practice. "Get them to do it right."

Rivers told Harden he needs to act as a facilitator, and "be the aggressive James" like he was at the end of practice.

"It's going to come. It's going to take a while," Rivers told the veteran. "But when it clicks, James, we're going to be unbeatable. Unbeatable. But you've got to keep your spirit up."

Spirits up, even with the wine connoisseur's new role.

"You've been the President," Rivers said.

"I ain't the President no more," Harden replied.

Hey, VP isn't so bad. And given Embiid's injury history, Harden just might have to rise again to the elite level he reached in eight-plus years with the Houston Rockets, where he was a three-time scoring champion and league assists leader. The seven-time All-NBA player was also named last year a member of the league's 75th anniversary team. But his reputation was smudged when he in large part orchestrated trades out of Houston and Brooklyn over a 14-month span that eventually parked him in Philly at last year's trade deadline.

The Nets had acquired Harden from the Rockets in a January 2021 trade, with the idea that he would form a Big 3 with Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving. The expected title never materialized and the Nets gave up on a disgruntled Harden and traded him for Philly's own disgruntled Ben Simmons.

Harden has mostly kept quiet on his previous two trade demands.

"For the most part, I'm to myself," Harden said. "Media, whoever, they talk and say their little jabs or shots at me and I never respond because I know who I am and what I'm about."

Harden averaged 21 points in 21 games with the Sixers. It was the postseason that struck reasonable doubt that all the NBA miles on his body might taken a toll.

The fake beards fans wore when the Sixers acquired Harden and crazed excitement stirred by his arrival dimmed in the postseason. Harden had four turnovers, four baskets and did not score in the second half in a season-ending Game 6 loss to Miami. He scored just 14 points in a Game 5 blowout loss at Miami. Harden said several issues that kept him from his full potential in Philadelphia were resolved this summer over meaningful conversations with Rivers and Embiid.

"I think me learning them, and vice versa, them learning me and who I am and what I'm about, this summer was really good for that," Harden said.

In Harden's 2017-18 MVP season, he joined Michael Jordan as the only players to average at least 20 points, eight assists, five rebounds and 1.7 steals in a season. He led the league in scoring, 3-pointers and 50-point games with four and led the Rockets to an NBA-best 65 wins.

"If you start judging him, well he averaged 30 at Houston, but he only averaged 20 here, that's insane," Rivers said. "We have a lot of guys that can score. At Houston, he had to score. All the time. Here, the No. 1 option is Joel. James has never been the second option."

At least not since his early years in Oklahoma City. If he adapts in Philly, it could go a long way toward bringing the Sixers their first championship since 1983.

Braves clinch NL East title with win over Marlins

MIAMI (AP)—William Contreras drove in the go-ahead run with an infield single in the fifth, and the Atlanta Braves clinched their fifth consecutive NL East title Tuesday night by beating the Miami Marlins 2-1.

Atlanta earned a first-round bye as the No. 2 seed in the NL, behind the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Braves were 10 1/2 games behind the New York Mets at the start of June and lost four of five to New York in early August. After sweeping the Mets over the weekend to take the division lead, Atlanta entered the series needing a win or a Mets loss to clinch the division crown.

Starter Jake Odorizzi (6-6) pitched five innings, struck out six, allowed two hits, and one home run to Jesús Sánchez in the fourth. Kenley Jansen recorded his 41st save, working a perfect ninth.

AP

Atlanta Braves manager Brian Snitker, center, talks to players as they celebrate in the club house after clinching their fifth consecutive NL East title by defeating the Miami Marlins 2-1, in a baseball game, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022, in Miami.

Yankees 5, Rangers 4, 1st game

In Arlington, Texas, Aaron Judge went 1 for 5 with a single and scored the decisive run to lead New York past Texas in the first game of a day-night doubleheader.

Judge remained at 61 home runs with two games remaining to break the AL record. He grounded out on the first pitch of the game, and again when he lofted a routine fly-out to right in the third. In the fifth, he had an infield popup. Judge singled in the eighth and got another at-bat in the ninth, grounding out on the first pitch.

Rangers 3, Yankees 2, 2nd game

In Arlington, Texas, Yankees slugger Aaron Judge led off the nightcap with his American League-record 62nd home run and Gerrit Cole set the franchise single-season strikeouts record even as New York lost 3-2 to the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night for a doubleheader split.

Leody Taveras hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning of the second game to put the Rangers ahead to stay, after their 5-4 loss in the opener had extended their losing streak to seven games. The AL East champion Yankees have won 99 games, the Rangers 67.

Judge drove the third pitch of second game, a 1-1 slider from Rangers opener Jesus Tinoco, into the first row of seats in left field to end his long, tiring chase to break Roger Maris' AL mark that had stood since 1961.

Astros 10, Phillies 0

In Houston, Justin Verlander capped his magnificent comeback season by striking out 10 without allowing a hit in five innings, and Houston's bullpen kept Philadelphia hitless until the ninth inning.

Verlander, who has pitched three no-hitters in his career, walked one before being pulled after 77 pitches. The AL West champion Astros led the NL wild-card Phillies 8-0 at the point.

Rookie Hunter Brown pitched 2 1/3 hitless innings and Hector Neris got the last two outs of the eighth inning. Will Smith came on for the ninth and Garrett Stubbs singled to center field to break up the no-hitter bid.

Mets 4, Nationals 2, 1st game

In New York, Brandon Nimmo homered and drove in three runs as New York kept its NL East hopes alive by winning the first game of a doubleheader, only to lose the division to Atlanta during the nightcap.

The Braves clinched the division with a 2-1 victory in Miami. The Mets will host a best-of-three wild-card playoff series this weekend and the Braves get a bye.

The playoff-bound Mets led the division for 175 days, held a 10 1/2-game lead on June 1 and led by seven games on Aug. 12.

Nimmo hit his 15th homer, a two-run single and a double. Jeff McNeil opened a three-point lead on Dodgers star Freddie Freeman in the NL batting race with two hits to raise his average to .328.

Mets 8, Nationals 0, 2nd game

In New York, New York was eliminated from the NL East race even as Brandon Nimmo, Francisco Lindor and Jeff McNeill opened with three straight homers to spark the Mets to a sweep of a doubleheader.

The Braves were batting in the sixth with a 2-1 lead in Miami when the Mets started the second game with three straight homers for the first time in team history.

Atlanta closed out its fifth straight division title with the 2-1 win over the Marlins as the Mets finished batting in the fourth, A few groans could be heard from the crowd, who earlier were chanting "Let's Go Marlins."

The Mets will face either the Padres in a best-of-three wild-card series starting Friday at home. The winner of that series will face the NL-best Dodgers in the Division Series starting Tuesday.

White Sox 8, Twins 3

In Chicago, Luis Arraez had one hit to move closer to his first AL batting championship, one of only two hits Minnesota managed off Chicago's Lucas Giolito in seven innings.

Elvis Andrus hit his third homer in four games, a three-run shot, as the White Sox cruised to their second straight win after Tony La Russa stepped down as manager on Monday.

The 25-year-old Arraez extended his hitting streak to eight games and held his average at .315 has he tries to become the fifth Twins player to win the league batting title. He was back in the lineup as DH after missing the previous two games with a left hamstring injury.

Brewers 3, Diamondbacks 0

In Milwaukee, Eric Lauer pitched six innings of no-hit ball before getting removed from the game in Milwaukee's victory over Arizona.

Jake Cousins and Peter Strzelecki worked the final three innings of the one-hit shutout.

Milwaukee's no-hit bid provided at least some sense of drama to an otherwise meaningless game. The Brewers were eliminated from playoff contention Monday night when the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Houston Astros 3-0 to clinch their first postseason berth since 2011.

Cardinals 8, Pirates 7, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, Albert Pujols drove in two more runs and St. Louis went on to beat Pittsburgh.

Pujols hit a two-run single in the third inning to push his career total to 2,218 RBIs. That came a night after he broke a tie with Babe Ruth for second place on the career list. Hank Aaron holds the record with 2,287.

Cardinals manager Oliver Marmol then removed the 42-year-old Pujols at the end of the inning. St. Louis opens postseason play Friday when it hosts a best-of-three National League wild-card series.

Red Sox 6, Rays 0, 5 innings

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts hit a grand slam and Nathan Eovaldi pitched five scoreless innings in what could be his final appearance in a Red Sox uniform to help Boston beat the playoff-bound Tampa in a rain-shortened game.

Christian Arroyo added an RBI single for Boston (77-84), which won its fifth straight home game.

Boston took a 6-0 lead with two outs in the fifth inning when rain started to fall heavily, prompting a delay. The game was called 52 minutes later.

The Rays (86-75) lost their fourth straight game since clinching a playoff berth. They will be the AL's No. 6 seed and get a wild-card matchup with AL Central champion Cleveland.

Rays left-hander Jeffrey Springs (9-5) allowed one run off two hits and struck out three over three innings.

Mariners 7, Tigers 6, 1st game
Mariners 9, Tigers 6, 2nd game

In Seattle, Abraham Toro homered and drove in four runs, Cal Raleigh hit his 27th home run of the season and Seattle beat Detroit to complete a sweep of their doubleheader.

Seattle won the first game 7-6 in 10 innings as catcher Luis Torrens became the first position player in club history to earn a win when the Mariners rallied for two runs in the bottom of the 10th.

Torrens didn't have any time to rest as he went from pitching to catching and was behind the plate for the second game. Torrens had a single and scored on Toro's two-run homer in the fourth inning.

Toro added a two-run single in the fifth, an inning that also included Raleigh's solo shot. It was Raleigh's first homer since the game-winning shot in the bottom of the ninth last Friday that clinched Seattle's first postseason berth since 2001.

Spencer Torkelson homered in both games for Detroit and Kody Clemens hit the first grand slam of his career off Seattle starter Justus Sheffield in the second game.

Guardians 5, Royals 3

In Cleveland, Cal Quantrill finished the regular season unbeaten at home, improving to 14-0 in his career at Progressive Field after Owen Miller hit a two-run homer in Cleveland's win over Kansas City.

Quantrill (15-5) was in danger of his unblemished run at home ending before Miller's shot off Daniel Lynch (4-13) capped Cleveland's five-run fifth. Quantrill's 14-game winning streak is the longest in the ballpark's history. It also matches the longest unbeaten streak for a pitcher in any ballpark since 1901. Vic Raschi went 14-0 at Chicago's Comiskey Park from 1947-55.

José Ramírez hit a two-run double and Andrés Giménez had an RBI single in the fifth.

Reds 3, Cubs2

In Cincinnati, Spencer Steer doubled off Brandon Hughes in the ninth inning to score Stuart Fairchild and Cincinnati avoided its 100th loss, beating Chicago.

The Reds (62-99) are trying to avoid the second 100-loss season in franchise history. They were 61-101 in 1982 while in the process of dismantling the dominant Big Red Machine clubs.

Chuckie Robinson tied it for Cincinnati in the seventh with a two-run homer in the seventh off Keegan Thompson. Alexis Diaz (7-3) was the winner.

Rockies 5, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Julio Urias made his final tune-up for the postseason and case for the Cy Young Award a solid one, though Colorado went ahead after he left and beat Los Angeles.

Urias pitched five innings and allowed two runs — both on solo homers. He will finish season as the National League's ERA leader at 2.16 with a 17-7 record.

Randal Grichuk hit a tie-breaking two-run homer off Andrew Heaney (4-4) in the seventh inning. It was Grichuk's 19th home run of the season.

Clayton Kershaw pitches the final regular season game Wednesday. The Dodgers have a bye and will be off until the NLDS begins Tuesday at Dodger Stadium. The Dodgers will play the winner of the New York Mets-San Diego Padres wild-card round.

Padres 6, Giants 2

In San Diego, Sean Manaea allowed only one hit in six shutout innings and San Diego wrapped up the fifth seed in the NL playoffs, beating San Francisco.

Wil Myers homered and drove in two runs for the Padres. They got the second wild-card spot with the victory and Philadelphia's 10-0 loss at Houston. San Diego will travel to New York for a best-of-three set at the fourth-seeded Mets, starting Friday night.

Manaea (8-9) stuck out six. San Francisco starter Alex Cobb (7-8) allowed a run on seven hits in five innings.

Athletics 2, Angels 1, 10 innings

In Oakland, Calif., Shea Langeliers drew a bases-loaded walk in the 10th inning, sending Oakland past Los Angeles.

A.J. Puk (4-3) pitched a scoreless 10th for the victory.

Ryan Tepera (5-4) pitched the ninth before faltering in the 10th. Tony Kemp reached on a grounder and Sean Murphy singled. Tepera intentionally walked Seth Brown to bring up the rookie Langeliers.

Tan Holdings holds off Shirley's FC in boys U13

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

In Week 2 of games in the boys U13 of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2022, Tan Holdings FC overpowered Shirley's FC, 8-2, last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Soccer Training Center in Koblerville

Emerson Charles Brillo scored a goal in the first couple of minutes of the game, triggering a series of goals for the boys of Tan Holdings.

Shirley's put up a good run, never too far behind them but Tan Holdings was always a step ahead. Brillo and Jerz Navarro claimed two goals each in the game even before Shirley's was up on the board, for a score of 4-0.

John Lloyd Lucero of Tan Holdings found the back of the net, but was immediately followed right after by Kimason Cabrera of Shirley's, for a score of 5-1. Tan Holdings still had a huge lead as three more goals were made, with six goals made in the first half and two goals in the second half.

The only other goal that Shirley's put up was in the 42nd minute, for the final score of 8-2.

Tan Holdings also includes Rafael De Belen, Evan Seguritan, Julio Monserrat, Kian Estolas, Travis Hix Jr., Franko Ray Tudela, Clyde Manangan, Tanner McClure, and Brycen Raymundo.

NMIFA

Tan Holdings boys U13 team, in green, runs through the field during their game against Shirley's FC in Week 2 of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MP United Blue 3, MP United Pink 2

MP United FC's two boys teams roughed each other up in a game of supremacy, with MP United Blue team coming out on top, 3-2.

Quido Jambor of MPU Blue drew first blood in the first eight minutes of the game. Right after, teammate Seo Yeom scored one as well.

MPU Pink's Leonard Delemarle found his way through MPU Blue's defenses and finally put their team up on the board, but they were still behind, 2-1. It was still anybody's game, and MPU Pink managed to put up one more goal, but lost right after MPU Blue scored and took the lead until the end of the game.

Kanoa FC 2, Matansa FC 0

Kanoa FC blanked Matansa FC, 2-0.

There was much back and forth between the teams, with the other not being able to score.

Finally, in the 26th minute, Aldirc Antonio broke the silence and scored a goal for Kanoa, with Akoni Matsumoto right at his heels for the second goal and the win.

Kanoa 1 blanks Kanoa 2 in U13 girls

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Both of Kanoa FC's girls U13 teams faced off with Kanoa FC 1 blanking Kanoa FC 2, 8-0, in Week 2 of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Fall 2022 last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The afternoon sun basked the open soccer field with its radiant glow, shining on the teams' orange uniforms, with Kanoa FC 1's orange uniforms covered with a pink top to distinguish the sister teams apart.

Kanoa FC 1's Aubrey White found the back of the net early on, scoring a goal in the first three minutes of the game. Kanoa FC 2 could not keep up with their sister team, as they ran up and down the field, trying to snag the ball away from them.

Kanoa FC 1 didn't seem to have any trouble with the ball as Beatrice Gross scored another goal and Faith Arriola, Eliza Culp, and Alejandra Manabat taking turns scoring a goal each.

With the first half over, Kanoa FC 1 gathered six goals and Kanoa FC2, zilch.

Kanoa FC 2 still had time to redeem themselves in the second half but were no match against Kanoa FC 1's speedy defenders. Almost everyone in Kanoa FC 1's lineup had a shot at the goal, with one goal made by Hayven Moteisau and one more by White.

The clock winded down and Kanoa FC 2 failed to score a goal, with the final result of 8-0.

Kanoa FC 2 consists of Cali Jade Cabrera, Miana Dela Cruz, Ciana Demapan, Maria Quidato, Malia Rayphand, Aya Santos, Paige Muna, and Lina Tsukagoshi.

Southern United FC-1 6, Tan Holdings FC-1 1

Southern United FC got the better of Tan Holdings FC, 6-1.

Even as Tan Holdings' Xyriel Pascual drew first blood, neither she nor her teammates could produce any more goals.

This gave way to Southern United's team to flourish and score six goals, five of which was made by Rosie Jean Saralu, and the one was made by Brianne Echalico.

MP United 2, Tan Holdings 1

MP United FC bested Tan Holdings FC 2 just by a point, 2-1.

Tan Holdings drew first blood but that was all they could muster throughout the game.

MP United's Addalee Taflinger and Allie Brasuell scored the two goals for the team.

Matansa FC 4, Paire FC 4,

Mantansa and Paire ended their game in a draw, 4-4.

Both teams scored three of their goals in the first half and their last goal in the second half.

They both could not score anymore as the game reached its final seconds.

Results of Week 2's boys and girls U16 divisions will be posted in the next editions of *Saipan Tribune.*

NMIFA

Kanoa FC Team 2, in orange, goes after a Kanoa Team 1 attacker in Week 2 of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

FMS

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to the scoreboard.

SIS 16, Hopwood-2 6

Saipan International School took win No. 2 after topping Hopwood 2.

Aubrey White and Phoenix Gross teamed up in Geckos' triumph over the Hilitai after combining for 13 markers. Hopwood-2 remains winless in six games.

Dandan 22, Hopwood-1 16

Dandan joined Tanapag and Agape at the second spot in the team standings after beating Hopwood 1

Shaenna Yamada tallied 12 markers for Dandan, while Jashmin Ramon chipped in 8. Chinesesarin Jones had 6 points for Hopwood 1.

Before losing to Dandan, Hopwood-1 came from a 20-2 lopsided win over Chacha early last week. Hope Hocog and Princess Calimag registered 8 points apiece in Hopwood-1's third victory of the season.

The IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League is organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation and the Public School System's Athletic Program.

FORMING

From Page 20

pic Committee as speakers. Papua New Guinea Olympian Ryan Pini was also part of the group as athletes' representative to the Pacific Games Council' executive board.

Pangilinan and Itaas are determined to use the information they learned from the forum to initiate the establishment of an Athletes' Commission in the NMI under the guidance of the Northern Marianas Sports Association, which is an associate member of the ONOC. Article VII of the amended NMSA Bylaws, Committees and Commissions, Section 2, calls for the establishment of an Athletes' Commission which shall represent the interests of active athletes affiliated with the NMSA. The Athletes' Commission shall elect its own officers and directors and is entitled to nominate one member to the NMSA board.

"During the forum's session, we were tasked to make action plans and the first step to accomplishing these plans is to form an Athletes' Commission in the NMI. Khristelle and I will share the inputs provided to us and will work with the different NMSA-member federations in engaging our fellow athletes to a series of discussions on how to establish the Athletes' Commission," Pangilinan said.

Meanwhile, the NMSA would like to thank ONOC general secretary Ric Blas and the forum organizers and support staff, and the PGC for providing NMI athletes the opportunity to attend the 5th Oceania Athletes' Forum.

"The NMSA is committed to assisting our athletes in the establishment of the Athletes' Commission so we're deeply grateful to ONOC and the PGC that they've extended the invitation to our athletes to attend the forum. Exposure to this type of activities is one of the major steps we have to take, as we work toward fully supporting the creation of an Athletes' Commission. We will continue to engage ONOC and its Athletes' Commission to give us guidance on this very important undertaking," NMSA president Jerry Tan said. ***(PR)***

ACS

From Page 20

the KagHS at 4-3, while the Ayuyus are now at the opposite end at 3-4.

The Torchbearers' junior varsity team wrangled with Mount Carmel School, which they lost after three tough sets.

ACS lost in the first set, 17-21, bounced back and won the second set 22-20, but ultimately lost the game after losing in the deciding tiebreaker third set, 8-15.

"Our varsity team has overcome some difficulties in the early season games but in today's game the girls showed that their forms are coming back nicely. As long as they perform at the level they can, they are going to challenge the other teams in the championship games," said ACS administrator Kok H. Pang.

With the junior varsity team, he said, "ACS JV team is [made up of] new developmental players—only started playing in last few months. They did okay by winning four games and lost five games."

The Torchbearers varsity team includes Jiaxin Chen, Yilin Huang, Aiyuan Pang, Xu Ren, Eunice Xu, Jenny Xu, Ruth Zhang, Shuang Zhao, and Yijing Zhuang.

In other results for the night, Saipan Southern High School junior varsity defeated Saipan International School in two sets, 21-12, 22-20.

Meanwhile, undefeated Grace Christian Academy bested Marianas High School in two sets, 21-12, 21-7.

In the varsity standings, GCA is still on top at 6-0, MCS is 5-1, MHS is 3-4, SIS is at 3-1, and SSHS is at 1-6.

In the junior varsity standings, GCA and MHS 9 are at 5-1, SSHS is at 5-3, MHS JV is at 4-2, ACS is at 3-4, MCS and SIS are at 3-5, and KHS is at 2-4.

Today is the last game of the regular season. The playoffs will start on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 6:15pm. This gives ample time for the teams to recuperate before the postseason.

The Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 is being held with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

Analysis: Wembanyama showed the repertoire, as NBA watched

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Sports

Tan Holdings holds off Shirley's FC in boys U13

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Forming Athletes' Commission is top priority

ONOC PHOTOS

Delegates to the 5th Oceania Athletes' Forum gather for a group photo during the opening of the event in Suva, Fiji last Sept. 22.

Pacific Mini Games medalist Janelle Pangilinan is back on island after representing the NMI in the 5th Oceania Athletes' Forum in Fiji late last month and has taken with her insights on promoting and supporting the development and welfare of her fellow athletes.

Pangilinan, who won a bronze medal in the badminton competition of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, joined more than 30 athlete-representatives from Oceania in the Sept. 22 to 24 forum that had "Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers" as theme. The group discussed the challenges athletes in the region faced during the pandemic and how they survived them, as well as the resources available and initiatives created to help athletes move forward with their sporting careers and lead their respective organizations.

"I learned information on grants and other resources available to athletes to further our growth and open more opportunities for us on and off the field," said Pangilinan, who was joined in the forum by Khristelle Itaas of the NMI women's national soccer team.

Itaas said it's truly inspiring to be surrounded with many dedicated athletes who became Olympians and to hear the struggles that they managed to overcome, which contributed to who they are today. The forum, which was organized by the Oceania National Olympic Committees' Athletes' Commission, had three-time BMX world champion and Olympic silver medalist Sarah Walker and multiple-Olympian hockey player Kayla Whitelock of New Zealand, and Arthur Milroy of the International Olym-

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FMS on a roll; SIS tops Hopwood-2

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School won the battle of unbeaten teams after outclassing Tanapag Middle School, 24-18, during their girls middle school division game in the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

As expected, Rosie Saralu led FMS' victory, as she scored all but 3 of the Napu Riders' points to hand FMS its sixth win in as many games and the solo lead in the nine-team field. Tanapag had its four-game winning streak snapped and then absorbed back-to-back losses in the same day after Grace Christian Academy nosed out the Tataga, 18-16, in the evening match.

Tanapag dropped to second place, sharing the sport with Dandan Middle School and Agape Christian School, while GCA is ranked fourth with its 3-3 record behind the 3-2 mark of Hopwood Middle School 1.

FMS notched the solo lead after drawing 21 points from Saralu, whose skills cut above the rest that he delivered all five field goals for the Napu Riders in the second half. She and Tanapag's Erica Zandueta traded baskets with the latter finishing with a team-high 14 points, but the FMS gunner had the upper hand, as she managed to give the Napu Riders the victory.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hopwood Middle School-2's Divine Baxter, left, is defended by Saipan International School's Phoenix Gross during their girls middle school division game in the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Agape 11, GCA 5
Agape 24, Chacha 6

In other results last Friday, Agape bagged win No. 3 after downing GCA.

Barbara Wang fired 9 points in Agape's triumph over the defending champions.

Wang and company then swept their pair of assignments last weekend after routing the winless Chacha Oceanview Middle School.

Against Chacha, Wang hit double figures after recording 11 points and she also drew some support from his teammates, as four other Agape players made it

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ACS splits JV and varsity matches in girls v-ball

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Agape Christian School girls varsity volleyball team beat Kagman High School, while their junior varsity team lost to Saipan Southern High School last Tuesday in the continuation of the Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Torchbearers lit up the already sweltering court in two sets, with the first set a very close match against the Ayuyus, 23-21. In the second set, ACS breathed a little easier as ball after fiery ball made it over their opponents' net, resulting in their 21-7 win.

With this win, the Torchbearers broke their tie with

See ACS on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

An Agape Christian School varsity player attempts to spike against Marianas High School in their previous match in the 2022-2023 PSS Girls High School Volleyball League at the MHS Gymnasium.